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Marshall

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Charles H. Hall, 1808
A

TREATISE

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ON THE LAW OF INSURANCE,

IN FOUR BOOKS;

- I. OF MARINE INSURANCE,
- II. OF BOTTOMRY AND RESPONDENTIA,
- III. OF INSURANCE UPON LIVES,
- IV. OF INSURANCE AGAINST FIRE.

By SAMUEL MARSHALL,
SERJEANT AT LAW.

52 W. 11th St. N. Y. C.

THE SECOND EDITION,
WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Laudo mercatorem, qui fidem, etiam contra leges datam, servat; sed, et laudo judicem, qui fraudes et nequicias mercatorum non sovet, et rescindit pactiones quas lex rescindi jubet. Judicis est leges sequi; nec disputare an turpiter faciat affecurator, qui fidem datam violat.—Esto, turpiter faciat; sed, et turpiter facit qui contra leges paciscitur.

Bynd. Quæst. jur. priv. lib. 4. c. 5.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY A. STRAHAN,
LAW PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
FOR J. BUTTERWORTH, LAW BOOKSELLER, FLEET-STREET,
AND J. COOKE, ORMOND QUAY, DUBLIN.

1808.

1045

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE SECOND EDITION.

AS this work, the fruit of much labour and research, was sent into the world as a sort of discharge of that debt which every man is said to owe to his profession or his country, it has been my earnest wish, in preparing it for a second impression, to give it the advantage of every correction and improvement which experience and reflection have suggested since its first publication. And on this head my anxiety has been greatly increased by the favourable reception with which the work has been honoured, not only in the commercial world, whose suffrage I am proud to acknowledge, but also in my own profession, and particularly by some whose approbation must be peculiarly grateful to me.—In the present edition will be found, properly abstracted, all the cases which have been determined in our courts on the subject of insurance since the publication of the first edition, with some others which had escaped my former researches. These have been introduced in their proper places, except a few which were published too late to be there inserted, but which are added in an appendix, and referred to in the index. Some parts of the work have been re-written, and some necessary improvements have been made

in the arrangement, which have rendered a new numbering of the pages unavoidable. But, to compensate in some measure for this, the index to the present edition will be found much more copious, comprehensive, and analytical than the former.—In the table of the names of the cases cited, those under each letter are divided into two parts, the one beginning with the names of the plaintiffs, the other with those of the defendants.

S. M.

SERJEANTS INN,
4th Nov. 1808.

P R E F A C E.

THE design of the following work has been to collect from every authentic source, and to ascertain, with as much precision as the subject would admit of, the genuine principles of the law of insurance; and so to arrange and methodise them, that not only lawyers, but merchants and others, might, without much difficulty, acquire a competent knowledge of them.

It is now many years since I first conceived the idea of attempting such a work. But after I had made some progress in it, I perceived that, if completed upon the plan I had adopted, it would have been found too abstract and elementary, to afford that assistance to the commercial world, or even to the profession of the law, which it was my ambition to render to both.—I perceived that the leading principles which govern the contract of insurance lie within a narrow compass; and that it is only the application of those principles to particular cases, that could form a work of general utility. My unwillingness to retrace my former steps, and to go again over the ground I had so recently trodden, concurring with other circumstances, induced me, at that time, to lay aside my design; and it was not till lately that I determined to resume it. But though, in my new undertaking, I have adopted a different plan, and made a new arrangement of the subject, still I found that my former researches, and the collections I had made, greatly facilitated my labour.

Preface.

The utility of works of this nature depends, in a great measure, on arrangement. Method, however, is only useful so far as it conduces to perspicuity. Too strict an adherence to methodical distribution only defeats the end which is meant to be attained by it. A multiplicity of divisions and subdivisions serve but to burthen the memory and weary the patience. I have therefore avoided as much as possible, divisions too large and comprehensive, on the one hand, and too trifling and minute, on the other.

The different branches of marine insurance so blend themselves with each other, that the forming of any distinct and satisfactory analysis of it, is a task of no inconsiderable difficulty. In the various treatises on this subject which I have had occasion to examine, I have seen no arrangement that I could entirely approve.—Of that now adopted, the reader will be able to form his own judgment, upon inspection of the following analysis. It will there appear that the subject has been divided, as nearly as it could be, according to the natural order of events, from the first idea of the contract, till the final close of the transactions upon which it is to operate, or which arise out of it.

The numerous cases that have been decided in the courts of *Westminster*, upon questions of insurance, within the last 60 or 70 years, afford the best materials for a treatise on this subject: They at once supply the rules of law, and shew the application of them.—And as much of the merit of a work of this nature depends on its being as complete as possible within itself, and so as to render a recurrence to other books seldom necessary, I have, in order to give the present work this advantage, in as great a degree as the limits I had pre-

scribed

Preface.

scribed to it would admit, introduced into it all the decided cases I have been able to collect, upon each branch of the subject, rejecting such only as I deemed unworthy of notice; so that it may not, perhaps, be too much to say, *Omnia mea mecum porto*. In abridging these cases I have observed one uniform rule.—Each will be found to consist of three distinct parts;—the facts, the decision, and the reasons assigned for it.—Where the decision cannot be well understood, without shewing the points insisted upon in argument, these are briefly stated. Though I have taken much pains to shorten each case as far as the plan of the work would admit, I am sorry to find the book swelled to a size considerably beyond that to which I had hoped to confine it.

A few of the cases have never before been in print. Some others I have cited from manuscript notes, which seemed preferable to those already published.

Under each head I have endeavoured to lay down, with the requisite perspicuity, the principles of the law, as I have been able to collect them from decided cases and the best authorities, ancient and modern, which I have been able to procure.

There is scarcely any contract which affords a greater number of questions of doubt and difficulty than that of marine insurance. Though the principles of the law applicable to this contract are, in general, well defined; yet the policy being usually of one uniform tenor, and the transactions upon which it is to operate, infinitely various and complicated, the conflicting rights of the parties are often so equally balanced, that it is impossible to decide between them, without resorting to very nice distinctions. It sometimes happens, too, that the real justice of the case, as between the parties, must yield to the strict rules of law: And it seems to have been a general subject of complaint, in most

commercial countries (*a*), that, upon such occasions, courts of justice are sometimes tempted to forsake the rules of law, and to lean in favour of the suffering party. It is not to be wondered at, then, if the doctrines delivered from authority, even in *Westminster Hall*, should be found, in some few instances, to be irreconcilable with the genuine principles of the law of insurance.

The compiler of a work like the present, which is not a mere *collection of cases*, but professes to *treat* of a particular branch of the law, ought to be capable of examining the principles upon which the rules that may have been laid down, either by writers on the subject, or by public tribunals, have proceeded. This, indeed, is the principal duty of the office he takes upon himself, and he is bound to perform it, so long at least as he conducts the enquiry with candour and temperance of judgment. Wherever, therefore, I have found any doctrine advanced, or any judicial decision, which militated against an acknowledged principle of law, I have, with a proper freedom, but, I hope, with decency and respect, pointed it out to the notice of the reader, with such observations as I thought myself called upon to make on the occasion. I have not, however, unnecessarily stepped aside to make captious objections. I have only sought, where the occasion called for it, to restore the true principles of the law; and the better to enable me to do this, I have availed myself of the works of foreign writers of acknowledged authority upon the law of nations, upon marine law, and the law of insurance; and I have freely had recourse to them, wherever their assistance would enable me to clear up a doubt, or solve a difficulty.

(*a*) Vid. *Bjnk. Quæst. jur. priv. lib. 4. c. 5.*; *Straccha*, p. 541, n. 6; *Emerig. tom. 2. p. 355.*

It is said that good faith should preside in all the transactions of commerce, and equity in the decisions of the questions to which it gives rise.—That good faith should preside in all the transactions of commerce, is a truth which cannot be too frequently repeated, or too forcibly inculcated.—And that equity should, on proper occasions, have its due weight in the decision of commercial questions, I am also ready to admit. But, by equity I would not be understood to mean those wild and fanciful notions of right, in which no two men can agree; but that rectitude of judgment which is the result of natural reason, enlightened and directed by the wisdom of the law. Under pretence of equity, the law is not to be forsaken. Where that is clear, it must prevail, however hard it may appear in particular cases. *Hoc quidem perquam durum est, sed ita lex scripta est.* It is safer, perhaps, to rely on the conscience of the law, than on the conscience of any man, however wise and virtuous he may be. *Omnia sunt incerta, cum à jure discessum est. Nec præstari, quidquam potest, quale futurum sit, quod positum est in alterius voluntate, ne dicam libidine (b).*

Nothing, indeed, can more promote the true interests of commerce, than that the law which regulates the contracts of merchants, should be well understood. Such contracts are the business of every hour. Merchants cannot resort, upon all occasions, to professional advice. They ought, themselves, to possess sufficient knowledge to enable them to transact their ordinary business without such aid. A man who purchases an estate may act with caution; but mercantile transactions will seldom admit of much deliberation. A merchant, in many cases, must decide at once, and act upon his own judgment; and a work that will enable

(b) Cic. ad fam. lib. 9. epist. 16.

him to do so with safety, in a very important branch of his business, and so as sometimes to obviate disputes and litigation, cannot fail of being beneficial to him. "*Le triomphe de la justice est de prévenir les procès,*" is the saying of an elegant writer. If the present work should at all conduce to that end, or, in any material degree advance the general prosperity of my country, my pains will be sufficiently rewarded.

With respect to *Bottomry* and *Respondentia*; though these contracts are not at present much in use in this country, I have collected from the *Roman* law and from foreign authors, such materials as seemed necessary to enable me to form a consistent treatise on this branch of the subject.

Insurance upon Lives, and *Insurance against Fire*, are now become very important contracts in this country. Upon each of these I have put together all the materials I could collect, and have digested them into such a form, as seemed most likely to render those parts of the book useful to such persons as may have occasion to consult them.

Having thus shortly explained the nature and design of this work, I now, with considerable diffidence, submit it to the judgment of my own profession, and of the commercial world; *Postulans a lectore, ut si quid superfluum vel perperam positum in hoc opere invenerit, illud corrigat et emendet, vel conniventibus oculis pertranseat; cum omnia habere in memoria, et in nullo peccare, divinum sit potius quam humanum (a).*

SAMUEL MARSHALL.

SERJEANT'S INN,
Feb. 2d, 1801.

(a) *Bract. de leg. 1.*

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A

TREATISE

ON THE

LAW OF INSURANCE.

BOOK THE FIRST.

Of Marine Insurance.

CHAP. I.

Preliminary Discourse.

INSURANCE is a contract whereby one party, in consideration of a stipulated sum, undertakes to indemnify the other, against certain perils or risks to which he is exposed, or against the happening of some event (a). The party who takes upon himself the risk is called the *insurer*, sometimes the *underwriter*, from his

Insurance defined.

(a) *Contractus affecurationis, id est avertendi periculi. dicitur contractus innominatus. FACIO UT DES, DO UT FACIAS, unde, debet regulari juxta naturam contractuum quibus assimilatur; assimilatur autem emptioni et venditioni, propter pretium quod datur ratione periculi; quia qui affecurationem facit propter pretium, dicitur emere eventum periculi. Rota Genuæ, decisio 3. n. 28. decisio 39. n. 9. Affecratio est conventio de rebus tuto aliunde transferendis, pro certo præmio, seu est averfio periculi, Stygm. pars 4. cb. 7. n. 262.—Averfio periculi ita dicta quod aliquis alterius periculum in mari averfum it, aut in se fufcipit, Locen. lib. 2. ch. 5. n. 1.—Vid. Valin on art. 1. h. t. p. 26. Potier, h. t. n. 1, classes this among the contracts which he denominates aléatoires, that is, pertaining to gaming or risks. Roccus, not. 6. lays, Hujus contractus & commercii lucrum et damnum dependet à mera sorte et fortuna.*

subscribing

subscribing his name at the foot of the policy; the party protected by the insurance is called the *insured*; the sum paid to the insurer, as the price of the risk, is called the *premium*; and the written instrument, in which the contract is set forth and reduced into form, is called a *policy insurance*.

Abuses of insurance restrained.

The risks against which insurances may be made are infinite. Formerly great frauds were practised upon ignorant and unwary persons, under colour of insurance of different sorts, which the legislature found it necessary from time to time, to repress. It appears that, in the reign of Queen *Ann*, several persons opened offices for making insurances on *marriages, births, christenings, &c.* whose fraudulent practices were soon found injurious to the public, that by the stat. 9 *Ann.* c. 6. §. 5 a penalty of 500*l.* is imposed on every person setting up such office, and 100*l.* on every person making such insurances in any office already set up.

But the most mischievous species of these fraudulent insurances is that upon *lottery chances*, which, long after the passing of the above act, sprung from that spirit of gaming which public lotteries are but too well calculated to excite in the people. These, however, after many unsuccessful endeavours to restrain them in the annual lottery act have, by the stat. 27 *G. 3.* c. 1., which was made expressly for that purpose, been considerably diminished.

The insurances of greatest public utility, and to which the following work will be confined, are,—1. *Marine insurance*;—2. *Bottomry* and *Respondentia*, which are a species of marine insurance;—3. *Insurance upon lives*;—and 4. *Insurance against fire*.

The first of these, being of the greatest utility and importance, will be the first subject of our consideration.

Marine insurance.

Marine insurance is that which is applied to maritime commerce, and is made for the protection of persons having an interest in ships, or goods on board, from the loss or damage which may happen to them from the perils of

(a) In compliance with custom the word *peril* is here used in a sense in which it is not usually understood. It does not here

of the sea, during a certain voyage, or a fixed period of time.

The utility of this contract consists in the protection it affords to maritime commerce, by dividing losses, when they happen, among many, so as to make them fall lightly upon each; and thus individuals are encouraged to embark their capitals in hazardous enterprises.—Without insurance, foreign commerce could only be carried on by the few who are wealthy enough, or bold enough, to run alone the risks which necessarily attend the prosecution of it. These would engross all maritime commerce to themselves, and their profits, for want of competition, would of course be immoderately high. The utility of marine insurance cannot be better expressed than in the words of the preamble to the stat. 43 *Eliz. c. 12.* which recites that, ‘By means of policies of insurance it cometh to pass, upon the loss or perishing of any ship, there followeth not the undoing of any man; but the loss lighteth rather easily upon many, than heavily upon few; and rather upon them that adventure not, than those that do adventure; whereby all merchants, especially of the younger sort, are allured to venture more willingly and more freely.’

Its utility.

Whether it can be traced.

Much pains and industry have been employed in fruitless endeavours to discover the origin of marine insurance. These, like every attempt to trace the first imperfect beginnings of those inventions which have arisen, by imperceptible degrees, out of human necessities, have only terminated in doubt and disappointment. Some enquiry, however, upon this subject, may be expected in this place; and yet the most careful researches scarcely enable us to ascertain about what time this contract first came into general use even in *Italy*, where it seems to have had its origin.

Whether its origin can be traced.

mean *danger, hazard, jeopardy*, according to its common acceptation; for to say that a loss was occasioned by a particular peril, would, according to that acceptation, be to say that the loss arose from the *danger* of such loss. In insurance, the word *peril* generally signifies the *happening* of the event or misfortune of which *danger* was apprehended.

Cleirac's account of its origin.

Cleirac, in his commentary on the first article of *Le Guidon*, following *Giovan Villani* in his universal history, says that policies of insurance and bills of exchange were unknown to the ancient *Roman* jurisprudence, and were the invention of the *Jews*, when they were banished from *France* by *Dagobert*, *Philip Augustus*, and *Philip the Long*, to enable them to draw from thence the money and goods which they had concealed, or deposited in the hands of their friends before their departure; that they withdrew their money by means of short notes expressed in few words, such as are still used in bills of exchange; that, in order to withdraw their effects, their suspicions suggested to them the first rude beginnings of policies of insurance, whereby, “*by their jewish arts*,” all the risk and danger of the voyage fell upon the insurers in consideration of a *present*, which was called a *premium*.—So that, according to *Cleirac*, bills of exchange and policies of insurance are of *jewish* birth and invention, and have nearly the same name,—*Polizza di cambio*, *Polizza di sicurtanza*. He adds that the *Italians* and *Lombards*, who were spectators of this *Jewish* intrigue, and the instruments employed in conducting it, preserved the forms of these instruments, which they afterwards well knew how to avail themselves of, in conveying out of *Italy* the effects of the *Guelphs*, when driven from thence by the *Gibbelines*.—But this relation, though adopted by so respectable a writer as *Cleirac*, carries with it very little of the air of probability.

Be this as it may, maritime commerce, carried to any considerable extent, must necessarily draw after it the contract of insurance, from the desire natural to all men to be protected against the accidents of fortune. The utmost we can do, therefore, towards ascertaining, about what time this contract came into use, will be, to trace the progress of commerce till it attained that height, which rendered insurance necessary to its farther advancement. This inquiry will be facilitated by an account of the various systems of marine law which have been promulgated by the different maritime states of *Europe*, from time to time, as the advancement of commerce rendered them

them necessary; and by shewing about what period laws for the regulation of the contract of insurance first began to make a part of these systems.

If the ancients were unacquainted with this contract, it was because their maritime commerce never attained the degree of greatness which rendered its protection necessary. History affords us no information from which we can form any conjecture, whether it was in use among the *Phœnicians*, the *Carthaginians*, or the *Greek* republics. Whether known to the ancients.

It is true that each of these states did carry on foreign trade to an extent that would have rendered it a subject of insurance, had this contract been already in use among them. But it seems extremely probable that this trade was never of sufficient magnitude, nor sufficiently perilous, to induce the necessity of insurance, or to oblige them to resort to this contract as a means of enabling private adventurers to carry it on.

As to the *Romans*, though the contract of bottomry which is a species of insurance, was well understood among them, as we shall have occasion to shew hereafter, there is no mention of insurance in the *Roman* law; nor is there to be found in any book of that law, or in the *Latin* language, even a name for this contract, the word *affecuratio* being a barbarism adopted in *Italy* about the 12th or 13th century, when insurance probably first came into use in that country. Nor does the history of that people any where afford a well-founded reason to believe that this contract was ever in use among them. It is true, that though they had no naval power before the first *Punic* war, they became masters of the sea before the second; and that, after the battle of *Ætium*, their maritime strength was considered as equal to their dominion on land. But that warlike and ambitious people, during almost all the time of their greatness, cultivated navigation only with a view to war and conquest. Commerce was to them a subject of inferior consideration, which they left to be carried on by the slaves and freed-men of the great. To extend their conquests and consolidate their power, was their principal employment, and almost the only object of their care. Finding themselves mas-

ters of the greatest part of the then known world, which they had reduced to subjection by a series of unparalleled conquests, they might easily have engrossed the whole commerce of the nations they had subdued. But they disdained the sober pursuits of industry, the want of which they compensated by the spoils of the conquered provinces.

Besides, the jealous policy of the *Roman* state, by an ancient law established by *Clodius* the tribune, in the time of the first *Punic* war, and afterwards renewed by the *Julian* law, prohibited senators from building or possessing ships, lest the power resulting from this species of property might render them formidable to the state.

What commerce they carried on was principally, if not wholly, confined to the *Mediterranean*, *Egean*, and *Euxine* seas, which were almost surrounded by their own dominions, and guarded by the armed fleets of the state, so as to remove all apprehension of *enemies* or *pirates*. Their small vessels rarely ventured out of port but in fine weather, and then only to coast along the shores, seldom venturing out of sight of land, even in the time of *Augustus* (a); the mere *perils of the sea* must therefore have been to them very inconsiderable. So that, whether we contemplate the *extent* of the *Roman* maritime commerce, or the *perils* to which it was exposed, we may reasonably conclude that it did stand much in need of the protection of insurance.

Some, however, have fancied that they could discover in the *Roman* history, the first traces of this contract.—*Livy* relates, that during the second *Punic* war, certain contractors employed to transport ammunition and provisions to *Spain*, stipulated that the republic should indemnify them against such losses as might be occasioned by the enemy, or by tempests in the course of the voyage, “*Impetratum fuit, ut, quæ navibus imponerentur ad exerci-*
“*tum Hispaniensem deferenda, ab hostium tempestatisque vi,*
“*publico periculo essent* (b). Others rely on a passage in *Suetonius*, who relates that the emperor *Claudius*, in a

(a) Vid. *Huet, Commerce des Anciens*, ch. 46. §. 9, 10, 11.

(b) *Liv. Hist. lib. 23. c. 49.*

time of scarcity at *Rome*, in order to encourage the importation of corn, took upon himself all the loss or damage that might be occasioned by storms and tempests in its passage thither. *Negotiatoribus certa lucra proposuit, suscepto in se damno, si quid per tempestates accidisset, et naues, mercatura causâ, fabricantibus, magna commoda constituit.* (a): Some years afterwards, contractors, who had been employed to convey provisions to the armies serving in the provinces, were prosecuted for having set up pretended shipwrecks as a ground of charge, the republic having taken such losses upon itself: *Publicum periculum erat à vi tempestatis, in iis quæ portabantur ad exercitus* (b).

But these instances only serve to shew, that the contractors were to transport the stores purchased of them to the places of their destination, at the risk of the republic. They have scarcely a resemblance in any one particular to the contract of insurance, and are to be looked upon merely as a mode of encouraging private persons to supply the demands of the public. Upon no better authority, however, than the above passage in *Suetonius*, has *Malynes* roundly asserted, that *Claudius* had introduced the custom of insurance, ‘whereby’, says he, ‘the danger and adventure of goods is divided, re-parted, and borne by many persons;—to the end that merchants might augment their traffic, and not adventure all in one bottom to their loss and overthrow(c).’ The same author adds, that ‘this custom coming to the knowledge of the inhabitants of *Oleron*, was recorded by them, and set down for a law, to be observed by all the sea-coast towns of *France*.’ And yet there is not a word in the laws of *Oleron*, nor in those of *Wisbuy*, or of the *Hans-Towns*, as collected by *Malynes* himself, which has the most distant allusion to insurance.

A passage in one of *Cicero*’s letters is also adduced, as a proof that the *Romans* were acquainted with this contract. —Having gained a great victory in *Cilicia*, and obtained considerable spoils there, he wrote to the *proquestor*, or under treasurer, *Canninius Sallust*, at *Laodicea*, in these

(a) *Suet.* ch. 18.—(b) *Liv.* lib. 25, n. 3.—(c) *Lex Merc.* 103.

words: "*Laodicea me praedes accepturum arbitror omnis pecunia publica, ut et mihi et populo cautum sit sine vectura periculo (a).*" From this *Emerigon (b)* would infer an order to the proquaestor to contract with persons who should be answerable for the risk of sending this money by sea to Rome. But the sense of the passage by no means warrants this inference. On the contrary, it seems that *Cicero* only meant to acquaint the proquaestor, that he would have the money at *Laodicea*, and there take security for its being paid at *Rome*, without any risk, either to himself or the republic. If this be the right interpretation of *Cicero's* words, it seems to bear a much stronger affinity to the practice of remitting money by means of *bills of exchange*, than to that of insuring against the perils of the sea.

There is in the pandects, an observation of *Ulpian*, which affords greater colour for supposing that the contract of insurance was not altogether unknown to the *Romans*, than any of the passages above referred to. He says, "*Illa stipulatio, decem millia salva fore promittis? Valet (d).*" This passage shews, however, that the contract alluded to, whatever it might have been, was very little known at the time *Ulpian* wrote, since he thought it necessary to observe that *it was not illegal*.

Growth of maritime commerce.

As maritime commerce, when carried to a certain extent, must, as has been already observed, draw after it the contract of insurance; and as the growth of the one must necessarily induce a corresponding improvement in the principles of the other, we will here take a cursory view of the progress of commerce from its revival in *Europe* in the 12th century, to the period of its attaining its present greatness.

The causes which contributed to its revival.

During the dark ages which succeeded the fall of the *Roman* empire, down to the twelfth century, all was *Gothic* barbarism in the west of *Europe*. Science, literature, commerce, were things unknown or wholly neglected. The transient gleam which shed its influence on this country during the reign of the immortal *Alfred*, affords

(a) *Cic. Ad Fam. 2. 17.*—(b) *Pref. 4.*—(d) *Dig. 1. 45. de verb. oblig.*

but a limited and temporary exception to this melancholy truth. Many causes at length contributed to revive the spirit of commerce, and renew the intercourse between nations.

The crusades, about the close of the eleventh century, The crusades. opened a vast communication between *Europe* and the *East*. *Constantinople*, the capital of the *Eastern* or *Greek* empire, had escaped the ravages of the northern barbarians who had overthrown that of the *West*. It was still a great and commercial city, where the elegancies of polished life yet remained; and this became the place of general rendezvous for the christian armies on their way to *Palestine*, or on their return from thence. And though the object of these expeditions was conquest, and not commerce, and though the issue of them proved unfortunate to these romantic and infatuated warriors, their commercial effects were beneficial and permanent. The crusaders brought back with them a taste for the refinements and luxuries of the *East*; and this soon created a demand, which could only be supplied by an extensive commerce with those parts.

The close of the holy war was followed by the invention of the mariner's compass, or at least its introduction into *Europe*, about the year 1260. This, with the consequent improvements in navigation, opened a wide field for maritime enterprize. (a) Discovery of the mariner's compass.

The feudal system, which had been established in all the western parts of *Europe* by the northern conquerors, had, about this time, attained its greatest height, and the overgrown power of the nobles, its natural concomitant, while it held the great body of the people in slavery, controuled, or gave law, even to the sovereign himself. To create some power that might counterbalance that of these potent vassals, it became the policy of the monarchs of *Europe* to erect communities, or corporations, in the considerable towns, with exclusive jurisdiction, and privileges which might protect the inhabitants from servitude, or dependance upon the neighbouring barons, or any other than the sovereign himself. This expedient was first The erecting of corporations.

(a) Vid. *And. hist. com.* vol. 1. p. 144.

adopted by *Lewis the Gross*, about the beginning of the 12th century; and though an ancient *French* author calls it a new and wicked device to procure liberty to slaves, and encourage them to shake off the dominion of their masters (a), yet the effects of this measure soon justified the policy by which it was dictated. The towns became the asylum of the oppressed; the acquisition of liberty produced a spirit of industry; and commerce soon began to establish an intercourse between the different nations of *Europe*.

Commerce of
the Lombards.

The free states of *Italy*, which arose out of the ruins of the western empire, sought, by the arts of peace, to raise themselves to that eminence which others had obtained by arms and conquest. During the 12th and 13th centuries, the commerce of *Europe* was almost entirely in the hands of these *Italians*, more generally known in those ages by the name of *Lombards*, of whom companies or factories settled themselves in almost every state in *Europe*, where they became the only considerable merchants and bankers, and in those times rivalled even the *Jews* themselves in the arts of usury. One of these companies settled in *London*, from which *Lombard-street*, in that capital, took its name. The rival republics of *Venice* and *Genoa*, at this time, took the lead in commercial adventure. They brought the rich productions of *India* at first by a northern circuit, through the *Caspian Sea* to *Astracan*, and from thence by the *Black Sea* to *Europe*. The *Venetians* afterwards, having obtained permission from the *Pope* to trade with the infidels, and from the *Calif* of *Egypt*, the liberty of trading on the coasts of *Egypt* and *Assyria*, opened a more direct communication with *India*, the trade of which they now wholly engrossed, and continued the most powerful maritime state in *Europe*, till the *Portuguese* doubled the *Cape of Good Hope* in 1497, and established an uninterrupted communication by sea between *Europe* and the *East Indies* (b).

Insurance sup-
posed to have
been invented
in *Italy*.

As the maritime commerce of these *Italian* states appears to have been carried to a very considerable extent

(a) Vid. *Hume Hist. Eng.* vol. 2. p. 118.—(b) *Huet, Commerce des Asiatiques*, ch. 48. §. 13. p. 311.

about the end of the 13th century, it is extremely probable that insurance came into use in *Italy* about that time. From thence, after the benefits resulting from it came to be understood, it was transplanted into most of the countries where the *Lombards* had established their trading companies. According to *Malynes* (a), they introduced it into *England* somewhat earlier than into the neighbouring countries on the continent; and, as a proof of this, he says, that even *Antwerp*, in its meridian glory, borrowed insurance from *England*, and that, down to the time in which he wrote (1622), there was in every policy made at *Antwerp*, and other places in the *Low Countries*, a clause inserted, that it should be in all things the same as policies made in *Lombard-street*, in the city of *London*, the place where the *Lombards* and other merchants of *London* used to hold their meetings, before the *Royal Exchange* was built.

Anderson (b) says, that the vast commerce carried on about the middle of the 16th century, between *England* and the *Netherlands*, introduced the practice of insuring from losses by sea, by a joint contribution. But the preamble to the stat. 43 *Eliz.* c. 12. which was passed in 1601, distinctly states, that it had been an *immemorial usage* among merchants, both *English* and foreign, when they made any great adventure, to procure insurance to be made on their ships or goods adventured. From this it may reasonably be supposed, that insurance must have been in use in *England* long before the middle of the preceding century.

When introduced into *England*.

But while the *Lombards* were successfully cultivating their commerce in the south of *Europe*, the same spirit began to manifest itself in the north; and about the middle of the 13th century, the cities of *Lubec* and *Hamburg* opened a trade with the *Lombards*. These, however, were soon obliged to enter into a league of mutual defence against the piracies of the *Danes*, *Swedes*, and other barbarous nations surrounding the *Baltic*. The benefits resulting from this confederacy, soon induced other towns to solicit to be admitted into it; and in a short time, eighty of the

Commerce of the *Hanseatic League*.

(a) *Lex. merc.* 105.—(b) *Hist. com.* vol. 2. p. 108.

Commerce of
the Flemings.

most considerable cities of *Germany* and the *Netherlands* were received into this alliance, which took the name of the *Hanseatic League*. They supplied the rest of *Europe* with naval stores, and established in several towns a staple, in which their commerce was regularly carried on, under the protection of this powerful confederacy. *Bruges*, in *Flanders*, was the most considerable of these. It became the centre of communication between the *Lombards* and the *Hanseatic* merchants, and the great emporium for the merchandize of the *East* and *West*. The *Flemings* traded with both in that city. This infused into them a habit of industry, which, while they retained their ancient free institutions, rendered *Flanders* the most opulent, the most populous, and the best cultivated country in *Europe*.

Measures of *Edward III.* to introduce the woollen manufacture into *England*.

Edward III., upon going into *Flanders*, preparatory to his first invasion of *France*, about the year 1340, was struck with the flourishing state of these provinces, of which he soon discovered the true cause, and endeavoured to excite a similar spirit of industry among his own subjects, who, blind to the advantages of their situation, and ignorant of the source from which opulence was destined one day to flow into their own country, neglected his wise admonitions; nor would they even attempt those manufactures, the materials of which they furnished to these foreigners. The King, however, encouraged *Flemish* artisans to settle in his dominions; and caused many wise laws to be made for the encouragement and regulation of trade, particularly the stat. 11 *Ed. III.* c. 2. by which all persons were prohibited from wearing any woollen cloth but of *English* fabric. By this he gave a beginning to the woollen manufactures of *England*, and first turned the active and enterprising genius of his people to those arts which have raised this country to the first rank among commercial nations.

Petition against
the *Lombards*.

The *Lombards*, however, still engrossed the whole of the carrying trade with *England*. Some attempts were made by parliament, in the reigns of *Edward III.* and *Richard II.* to encourage *English* shipping, but without effect; for we find, that in the 18th year of *Henry VI.* the

the commons petitioned, that no *Italian*, or other merchants, of the countries beyond the streights of *Gibraltar*, should sell here any other merchandize than that of the countries beyond those streights. And the reason assigned for the regulation thus prayed, was, that the *Italians* had become the carriers, not only of the commodities brought from the countries within the streights, but also of those from the countries without the streights, which were not brought in such abundance, nor sold so cheap, as when they were brought by the merchants of the countries from which they came. They prayed, therefore, that this might pass into a law for ten years; but the King did not consent to it (a). At length, however, by stat. 1 *Rich. III.* c. 9. great restraints were laid, both upon these *Italian* merchants, and their commerce.

Their commerce restrained.

But, beside the disadvantage of having almost all the foreign commerce of *England* carried on by strangers, even the internal trade of the country was continually checked in its growth, or wholly restrained, by the rapacity and bad policy of the government, either by enormous and arbitrary impositions, or by grants of monopolies, which for ages operated as a constant discouragement to industry and ingenuity, till by the stat. 21 *J. I.* c. 3., monopolies were declared to be "*contrary to the ancient and fundamental laws of the realm.*"

English trade checked by impositions and monopolies.

It may be recollected also, that *England*, from the time of the conquest, down to the time of *Henry VII.*, was almost constantly engaged in foreign or domestic wars. The arts of peace were, during that time, exiled, as it were, from this country, and so remained, until they found in the comparative tranquillity of the reign of that cautious prince, a degree of protection, under which they began to acquire some portion of strength and stability.

Two great events also, which happened in this reign, gave to the reviving spirit of commerce, a new and extraordinary impulse. While the *Portuguese* were creeping along the western coast of *Africa*, and slowly and cautiously exploring a passage by sea to *India* by the east, *Columbus*

Discovery of America and the passage by sea to the East Indies.

(a) Vid. *Reeves's hist. of shipping*, p. 12. 15.

conceived the project of sailing thither by the west, and, in the attempt, discovered the *West Indies* and the vast continent of *America*, in the year 1492. The *Portuguese* still persevered, and, in the year 1497, atchieved their great design. *Vasques de Gama* doubled the *Cape of Good Hope*, and opened a passage by sea to *India*, *China*, and *Japan*. *Europe* now emerged out of that darkness in which she had been involved from the subversion of the *Roman* empire. The arts awoke from a slumber of 12 centuries; and so vast a field for foreign discovery and commercial enterprise was now opened to the view of the maritime states of *Europe*, that the thirst of military glory, so long predominant, soon gave place to the avidity of wealth, and a passion for adventure in the newly discovered regions. Colonization followed, and the *English* soon formed valuable settlements in the *East* and *West Indies*, and on the continent of *America*.

Flemish commerce ruined by *Philip II.*

The *Flemings*, however, still retaining their ancient free institutions, were yet the first commercial people in *Europe*. Their industry, their manufactures, their foreign trade, still secured to them a high degree of wealth and prosperity, when all was overthrown by the bigotry and tyranny of *Philip II.* Many of the persecuted fugitives forsook their country and joined their fellow sufferers in the *Batavian* morasses; and, with them, under the illustrious heroes of the house of *Orange*, bravely vindicated their liberties, and finally triumphed over their oppressors. Many also sought an asylum in *England*, encouraged and protected by the wise and beneficent policy of *Elizabeth*. To both countries they carried their industry and their useful arts; and thus was laid that solid foundation of commercial greatness and maritime strength to which *England* and *Holland* afterwards attained; and which, in this kingdom, have since been carried to a height unparalleled in the history of mankind.

Transferred to *England* and *Holland*.

Marine law.

The growth of maritime commerce in *Europe*, of which I have rapidly traced the progress, must have been accompanied by a corresponding improvement in marine law. Several codes were formed by different states; at first for the regulation of navigation, and for defining the authority of the masters and other officers of ships, and the duty

and rights of the seamen; afterwards for the regulation of maritime contracts.

The earliest system of marine law, of which we find *Rhodian law* any account in history, was that compiled by the *Rhodians*, after they had, by their commerce and naval victories, obtained the sovereignty of the sea, about 900 years before the christian æra. *Cicero*, in his oration in favour of the *Manilian* law, says of that people, "*Rhodiorum usque ad nostram memoriam disciplina navalis et gloria remansit.*"

Whether their maritime code merited equal applause, we are now unable to determine, because there is reason to suppose that it has not been transmitted down to us; at least not in a perfect state. A collection of marine institutions, under the denomination of *Rhodian laws*, may be seen in *Vinnius*; but they bear evident marks of a spurious origin (a). Some have supposed, that the *Rhodian* laws were adopted by the *Romans* during the first *Punic* war, when they first became a naval power. Others affirm, that they were incorporated with the *Roman* law, by *Justinian* and others (b). Perhaps the more probable conjecture is, that different parts of these laws were, from time to time, adopted by that people, as the necessities of their marine required regulation.

As to the *Phœnicians*, the *Carthaginians*, the *Athenians*, the *Corinthians*, and other maritime states of antiquity, whether they had marine laws of their own institution, no where appears. If any such ever existed, they have not descended to our times.

The first code of modern sea-laws was compiled about the time of the first crusade, towards the end of the eleventh century, by the people of *Amalphi*, who had then become considerable for their commerce and maritime power. It is not improbable, that this code consisted principally of the *Rhodian* institutions, which were found still in force in the countries bordering upon the *Mediterranean*; and being collected into one regular system, were, for a considerable time, generally received as law in those countries. *Amalphitan code.*

(a) Vid. *Emerig.* Pref. 3.—(b) Vid. *Selden* de dominio maris, l. 1. c. 10. *Vinnius* in *Peckium* 190.

*Consolato del
mare.*

But other states, as they grew into eminence, formed new collections of marine law, in which the old institutions were altered and modified to suit the improvements of the times, or their own particular interests. Great inconvenience was soon found to arise from this diversity of rules upon a subject that had long been regulated by one general system, which was looked upon as part of the law of nations. This made it necessary for the different maritime states to form a new code out of all these discordant materials; which was done, as *Grotius* informs us (a), by the authority of almost all the sovereigns of *Europe*. This new digest was denominated *Consolato del mare*. It was originally published by order of the ancient kings of *Aragon*, in the *Catalan* tongue, and therefore probably composed at *Barcelona*, the capital of that province, and of the kingdom of *Aragon*. In the thirteenth century, this code was received as law in *Italy*, the *Greek* empire, *France* and *Germany* (b); and *Vinnius* says, that most of the marine laws in *Spain*, *Italy*, *France*, and *England*, are borrowed from it (c). *Casaregis* says of it, *Consulatus maris, in materiis maritimis, tanquam universalis consuetudo habens vim legis inviolabiliter attendenda est apud omnes provincias et nationes* (d). So that it seems to have been considered as a branch of public law; and though not quite unexceptionable in some respects, its regulations are still of very high authority in every maritime state in *Europe*.

Laws of Oleron.

The collection of sea-laws, next in point of time, as well as of celebrity, is that of *Oleron*, which, according to the *French* writers, were digested in the island of that name, under the title of *Reole des jugemens d'Oleron*, by direction of Queen *Eleanor*, the wife of *Henry II.*, in her quality of duchess of *Guienne*, and afterwards enlarged and improved by her son *Richard I.* (e). But *Selden* denies this, and maintains that these laws were compiled and promulgated by *Richard I.*, as King of *England* (f.) They are inserted in the beginning of the book entitled

(a) *Grot.* De jure bel. lib. 3. c. 1. f. 5. n. 6. — (b) *Emerig.* Pref. 6. — (c) *Vinnius* Leg. Rhod. p. 190. — (d) *Casaregis*, Disc. 213. n. 12. — (e) *Cleirac*, p. 2. *Emerig.* pref. p. 11. — (f) *Selden de dominio maris*, c. 24.

Us et coutumes de la mer, with a very excellent commentary on each section by *Cleirac*, the learned editor.

The next collection which occurs in *Cleirac*, is that of the ordinances made by “the merchants and masters of the magnificent city of *Wisbuy*,” in the island of *Gothland*, anciently much celebrated for its commerce, now an obscure and inconsiderable place. The true date of the promulgation of this code is not certainly known. *Malyne* (a) says, that the laws of *Oleron* were translated into *Dutch* by the people of *Wisbuy*, for the use of the *Dutch* coast. By *Dutch*, I presume, he means *German*; and it cannot be denied that many of the regulations contained in the laws of *Wisbuy*, are precisely the same as those which are found in the laws of *Oleron*. The northern writers pretend, however, that they are more ancient than the laws of *Oleron*, or even the *Consolato del mare*. *Cleirac* treats this notion with great contempt, and declares that, at the time of the promulgation of the laws of *Oleron* in 1266, which was many years after they were compiled, the magnificent city of *Wisbuy* had not yet acquired the denomination of a town (b). Be this as it may, these laws were for some ages, and indeed still remain, in great authority in the northern parts of *Europe*. ‘*Lex Rhodia navalis*,’ says *Grotius*, ‘*pro jure gentium, in illo mari Mediterraneo vigeat*; ‘*sicut apud Gallum leges Oleronis, et apud omnes transrhenanos, leges Wisbuenses*’ (c).

With respect to insurance, though it is purely a maritime contract, and would naturally find a place in the marine code of every country where it is in use; yet not the least mention of it is found, either in the *consolato del mare*, or in the laws of *Oleron*. In the laws of *Wisbuy*, indeed, according to *Cleirac*’s version (d), are these words,—

‘*Si le maistre est contraint de bailler caution au bourgeois pour le navire, le bourgeois sera pareillement tenu bailler caution pour la vie du maistre.*

‘*C’est à dire que, contre les hazards de la mer et de la mort, il ne peut echoir de requisition raisonnable à bailler caution*;

(a) Collection of Sea Laws, p. 44.—(b) *Cleirac*, p. 3.—

(c) *Grotius de jure bel. lib. 2, c. 3.*—(d) Art. 66.

‘*regulierement le bourgeois doit risquer son bien, et le maistre sa liberté et sa vie, bien y peut estre fait polisse d’assurance.*’

But this last paragraph, which alone alludes to insurance, seems to be only a comment upon, or exposition of, the foregoing, rather than a part of the original text; and its not being contained in *Malyne’s* translation of the laws of *Wisbuy*, strengthens this remark.

Ordinances of
the *Hanseatic*
League.

In 1597, the deputies of the *Hanseatic League*, in a general assembly at *Lubeck*, drew up a system of laws relating to navigation, for the use of their confederacy, to which, in 1614, in an assembly at the same place, they added several new ordinances. In these regulations, though the contract of bottomry is mentioned, there is not a word on the subject of insurance.

Ordinance of
Louis XIV.

But the completest and most comprehensive system of marine law, is the famous ordinance of the marine, of *Louis XIV.*, published in 1681. This excellent code was compiled and arranged by a very masterly hand, under the inspection of *Colbert*, the celebrated minister of that prince, upon an attentive revision of all the ancient sea-laws of *France* and other countries, with the assistance of the most learned men of the time, and upon consultation with the different parliaments, the courts of admiralty, and the chambers of commerce in *France*. It forms a system of whatever experience and the wisdom of ages had pronounced to be most just and convenient in the marine institutions of the maritime states of *Europe*. And though it contains many new regulations, suggested by motives of national interest, yet it has hitherto been esteemed a code of great authority upon all questions of maritime jurisprudence. Lord *Mansfield*, who appears to have taken much pains to obtain the best information, and to possess himself of the soundest principles of marine law, and of the law of insurance, seems to have drawn much of his knowledge upon these subjects from this ordinance, and from the elaborate and useful commentary of *Valin*. This may be perceived in many of his judgments upon questions of insurance, though his lordship does not always think it necessary to cite his authority.

Law of Insur-
ance.

The law of insurance is considered as a branch of marine law, and was borrowed by us from the *Lombards*, who

who first introduced the use of this contract into *England*. It is also a branch of the law of merchants, being found in the practice of merchants, which is nearly the same in all the countries where insurance is in use; and, indeed, merchants themselves were, for a long time, the only expounders of it. The law of merchants not being founded in the institutions, or local customs of any particular country, but consisting of certain principles which general convenience has established, to regulate the dealings of merchants with each other in all countries, may be considered as a branch of public law. *Non erit alia lex Rome, alia Athenis, alia nunc, alia post hac; sed et omnes gentes, et omni tempore, una eademque lex obtinebat* (a).

Law of Merchants.

Beside the general law of merchants, there are certain usages which prevail in particular countries, and sometimes in particular branches of commerce. These, like local customs in *England*, have the force of law where they prevail; and, where they are in force, are always supposed to be in the contemplation of the parties; and the contract of insurance is construed as having been made with reference to them. But then they must appear to have been long established; that is, as I humbly apprehend, they must be immemorial, or at least coeval with the branch of commerce to which they belong (b). They must also be reasonable and legal; otherwise no notice can be taken of them in any court of justice.

Particular usages.

If it be asked where the law of insurance is to be found; the answer is, in the marine law, and in the custom of merchants, which may be collected, 1. From the ordinances of different commercial states; 2. From the treatises of learned authors on the subject of insurance; 3. From judicial decisions in this country, and others professing to follow the general marine law and the law of merchants.

1. *Particular ordinances* have, as we have already seen, been made in many countries upon the subject of marine law; and many have been made to regulate marine insurance. But these have seldom gone farther than to

Ordinances relating to insurance.

(a) *Cir. Off.* 3.—(b) But see *Noble v. Kenneway*, *Doug.* 492. post ch. 7. § 5.

define, and to sanction by legislative authority, those principles which were already received as law in all commercial countries. Some, indeed, have added regulations, dictated only by national policy or particular interest; but these are wholly disregarded elsewhere.

The ordinances of other countries are not, it is true, in force in England; but they are of *authority*, at least as expressing the usage of other countries upon a contract which is presumed to be governed by general rules, that are understood to constitute a branch of public law. *Non habent vim legis, sed rationis.*

Of Barcelona.

The earliest ordinance now extant on the subject of insurance, is that of *Barcelona*, which, though without a date, must, from circumstances disclosed in it, have been published about the year 1435. *Emerigon* fixes the period of its publication in 1484 (a). But this is probably incorrect; for after the crowns of *Aragon* and *Castile* were united by the marriage of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella* in 1465, *Catalonia*, of which *Barcelona* is the capital, became subject to the laws of the united kingdom, and from that time no laws were promulgated as from that city.—It appears that this was not the first ordinance published on this subject; for it recites, that ‘*whereas in times past but few ordinances of insurance have been made, this defect requires amendment, &c.*’

Of Florence.

The next ordinance on this subject was published at *Florence* in the year 1523, after that city had been raised to a high degree of commercial greatness by the wisdom and abilities of the family of *Medicis*.

Of Charles V.
and Philip II.

The Emperor *Charles V.* in 1551, published a number of regulations concerning maritime commerce, called the *Caroline* code, to which his son *Philip II.* added several new ordinances in 1563 and 1565.

Beside these, several other states, and even particular cities, in more modern times, have promulgated their respective codes of marine law, and regulations of insurance. Most of these will be found collected in the second volume of *Magens*, to which, in the following work, we shall have frequent occasions to refer. But in the

(a) *Emerig. Pref. 12.*

celebrated ordinance of the marine of *Louis XIV.* above alluded to, will be found the best and most complete system of *positive law* for the regulation of insurance that has yet appeared in any country. It must, however, be observed, that many of the regulations contained in this ordinance were dictated by national interest, and are contrary to the general law upon the subject.

In *England*, where the practice of insurance has been *Of England.* the most extensive, fewer positive laws have been made to regulate it, than in any other country; and hence the practice of it with us has been found most conformable to general principles and the usage of trade. Some few statutes have passed, from time to time, to restrain the abuses of insurance, but no law has yet been made, either to ascertain any old principle, or to sanction any new one. This may be accounted for, not by supposing, with a learned writer on the law of insurance, that this law was already well settled, and its principles understood in most of the neighbouring commercial countries, before the use of it became extensive in *England* (a); but because the law of merchants is considered as a branch of the common law (b), and therefore the custom of merchants, in any one particular, being once clearly ascertained in any of the supreme courts, acquires from thenceforth the force of law, without the sanction of any higher authority. It would therefore have been an useless labour for the legislature to enact those very usages, by positive law, which are already considered as part of the law of the land. Besides, what is or is not the custom of merchants is much better ascertained in the investigation of particular cases, in courts of justice, than it could be by parliament, with all the information and assistance it could obtain.

Magens, indeed, wonders that the legislature had not laid down some complete system of regulations concerning insurances; and yet he acknowledges, "that whenever a trial at law takes place between an insured and an insurer, the wisdom and impartiality of the judges, in summing up the evidence, and directing the jury, leaves

(a) Vid. *Millar* on Insur. p. 12.—(b) *Winch.* 24.

no room to doubt that the verdict will be according to right and equity (a).” Still, however, he seems to have conceived a strong desire to have “a grand system of marine jurisprudence” erected in this country, and it is probable that he meant himself to have been the principal architect. But he appears to have been unable to engage those at the head of the government to enter into his views, and he peevishly tells us, that ‘it seems to be the common maxim of those who sit at the helm in these kingdoms, when things are not very urgent, to leave merchants to agree among themselves, and work on.’ A person less fond of erecting new systems might say, perhaps, that he could not have given a better proof of their wisdom.

Foreign treatises.

Le Guidon.

Cleirac.

2. As to *treatises*, the earliest now extant on the subject of insurance is that entitled *Le Guidon de la mer*, which is found in the collection of marine institutions, published at Rouen, in 1671, by *Cleirac*, under the title of *Les us et coutumes de la mer* already mentioned. This work is evidently the production of a much earlier period than that of its publication by *Cleirac*; and yet its contents plainly shew that it could not have been written till after the practice of insurance had become pretty general, and most of the principles which govern it were ascertained and well understood. We may therefore reasonably conclude that it could not have been written long before the 15th century. *Cleirac* informs us, “that it was originally composed for the use of the merchants of Rouen, and is so complete in itself, that it fully explains all that it is necessary to know on the subject of marine contracts and naval commerce; and that nothing is wanting to it but the author’s name.” Many faults which had crept into it, through time and the carelessness of copiers, have been corrected by the editor, who has enriched the whole by a very learned and excellent commentary of his own.

Vallin.

France has, in more modern times, produced three very valuable treatises on the subject of insurance. *Vallin’s* commentary on the ordinance of the marine is of the highest value upon every topic of maritime law. On the branch which relates to insurance, his commentary is

(a) *Magens*, Pref.

clear, acute, and instructive. *Pothier*, in his treatise on contracts, unites the most profound learning with the purest morals and the most comprehensive judgment. That upon insurance, is neat, concise, and masterly. *Pothier.*

Emerigon, whose work is confined to the subject of insurance, unites great learning with great practical knowledge. It abounds, however, in those nice distinctions and metaphysical refinements, in which most of the foreign jurists seem to pride themselves. But he had some apology for this in a country where, according to his own account, at the time he wrote, the generality of men paid little regard to their contracts, if, by a quirk or a subtlety, they could evade the performance of them. Many points in *Emerigon* are merely hypothetical; many of them are those which had been submitted to him for his opinion as a lawyer, or his decision as an arbitrator. Still his book is, of all the foreign publications on this subject, the most useful to an *English* lawyer. *Emerigon.*

Many other publications on this subject have appeared in different countries, and in different languages, the most considerable of which are those of *Roccus*, *Casaregis*, *Loccenius*, *Bynkershoek*, and *Santerna*. To these we shall have frequent occasion to refer in the course of the present work.

It is not a little singular, that in *England*, where the practice of insurance has long been so extensive, so little was published on this important subject, till within the last twenty years. *Malynes*, *Molloy*, *Beawes*, *Posseltwaite*, and some others less worthy of notice, have each in their respective publications, given a short chapter or two on the subject of insurance. *English authors.* Mr. *Magens*, a merchant, in 1755, republished in two volumes quarto, his *Essay on Insurances*, which he had before published in *German* at *Hamburg*. The essay itself occupies but a small portion of the first volume. It shews, however, a considerable degree of practical knowledge of marine insurance, derived from the ordinances, of different countries: But the book would have been much more valuable had the author been better acquainted with the general treatises on this subject. The rest of the work consists of a number of calculations of averages,

of letters and state papers relating to commerce, a collection of marine and commercial ordinances, treaties of commerce, and other matters, which are often of great utility. Mr. *Wesket*, a merchant, has, in a sort of alphabetical arrangement, put together a large quantity of materials on the subject of insurance, together with a variety of other matters little connected with insurance. Mr. *Millar*, a learned advocate of the *Scotch* bar, published at *Edinburgh*, in 1787, the *Elements of the law relating to insurances*, in which he discovers great knowledge of his subject, derived both from foreign and *English* books. To Mr. *Park*, the profession of the law and the commercial world are much indebted for his *System of the law of insurances*. This work professes, however, to be only “a collection of cases and judicial opinions,” without any comments of the author’s own (a).

Judicial decision.

3. With respect to *judicial decisions*, none are considered as binding authorities in our superior courts, but such as have been there determined; and even these may be reconsidered; and if, upon a full examination, they are found to militate against any clear and indisputable principal of law, they may, as in other cases, be overruled. As to foreign decisions, though they are of no authority in our courts, yet some few will be found cited in this work, in order to shew, upon doubtful points, how learned men in other countries have understood the principles of that law, which is supposed to be in force in this. *Valent pro ratione, non pro introducto jure*.

At what time actions on policies were first brought in the courts of *Westminster*.

Though foreign commerce increased considerably in the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, and insurance probably increased in a like degree, yet it appears to have furnished but few subjects of litigation in the courts of *Westminster*, till towards the close of that reign. The first case upon insurance which we find in any book of reports is mentioned by Sir *Edward Coke* (b), and he notices it as a mere novelty.—The reason why so few actions at common law were brought on policies of insurance before

(a) Vid. Advertisement to his 5th edition.—(b) 6 Rep. 47, b.

the above period, is very distinctly set forth in the preamble to the stat. 43 *Eliz.* c. 12. which recites, that
'Whereas heretofore assurers have used to stand so justly
'on their credits, that few or no controversies have arisen
'thereupon; and if any have grown, the same have,
'from time to time, been ended and ordered by certain
'grave and discreet merchants, appointed by the Lord
'Mayor of *London*, as men, by reason of their experience,
'fittest to understand, and speedily to decide, those
'causes.'—It further recites, that, '*of late years*, divers
'persons have withdrawn themselves from that arbitrary
'course, and have sought to draw the parties assured, to
'seek their monies of every several assurer, by suits com-
'menced in her Majesty's courts, to their great charges
'and delays.'

From this recital it appears that, before the passing of that act, almost all disputes arising upon contracts of insurance, were settled and adjusted by arbitration, and without resorting to any legal proceedings. And there seems to have been a particular tribunal for such arbitrations established in *London*, composed of persons annually appointed by the Lord Mayor, in imitation of some such establishments in other countries. *Malyne* informs us that there was an *Office of assurances* in the west side of the *Royal Exchange*, where insurances were made, and to which belonged certain commissioners who were annually chosen, and who were probably the '*grave and discreet merchants*' alluded to in the above recital.

Ancient mode of settling disputes.

The same author adds, that the authority of these commissioners was confirmed by act of parliament, in the latter time of Queen *Elizabeth*, 'for the obtaining whereof,' says he, 'I have sundry times attended the committees of the said parliament, by whose means the same was enacted; not without difficulty, because there were many suits in law by action of *assumpsit* before that time, upon matters determined by the commissioners for assurance, who, for want of power and authority, could not compel contentious persons to perform their ordinances; and the party dying, the *assumpsit* was accounted to be void in law.' (a)

(a) *Mal. Lex. merc.* 106.

The court of policies of insurance created.

43 *Eliz. c. 12.*

Its powers enlarged.

From this it is plain that the decisions of the commissioners did not give entire satisfaction in all cases; and either the underwriters began to decline their jurisdiction, and so drove the insured to seek their remedy by actions at common law, or the insured themselves began to prefer that mode of proceeding. But be this as it may, the novelty was thought a great grievance, and the more so, as a separate action was brought against each underwriter; so that it was thought expedient to give a check to this practice, and therefore the statute we have just mentioned, ‘ gives power to the Lord Chancellor to award, under the great seal, a commission to be renewed yearly, for the determining of causes arising on policies of insurance entered in the office of insurances in *London*; to be directed to the Judge of the Admiralty, the Recorder of *London*, two doctors of the civil law, two common lawyers, and eight discreet merchants, or to any five of them, who are empowered to hear and determine all such causes in a summary course, without formalities of proceeding; and to bring parties before them, examine witnesses, and enforce their decrees by imprisonment of the parties disobeying them.’ From these decrees, however, an appeal is given by bill in chancery.

This seems to have been little more than a confirmation of the authority assumed by the commissioners of the *Office of Assurances*, with a grant of the power of enforcing their decrees. But it happened in this, as in most cases where it has been attempted to innovate upon the modes of administering justice prescribed by the common law, that this new jurisdiction was found defective in many respects; and therefore the stat. 13 & 14 C. II. c. 28. which was made to supply those defects, provides, ‘ that three instead of five commissioners, (of whom a doctor of the civil law, or a barrister of five years standing, shall be one), may act; that they shall have power to punish witnesses for wilful delay; to direct admiralty commissions to issue for the examination of witnesses beyond sea; to enable one commissioner to examine witnesses going to sea before a court can be summoned, notice being given to the adverse party.’

But

But with all these additional powers, the court did not long continue to exercise its functions, and soon fell into disuse. (a) To this many causes contributed;—1. Its jurisdiction being confined to such insurances only as related to *merchandize*, the court could not proceed in a case upon any other species of insurance (b), and the parties, in such case, were obliged to resort to the courts of common law.—2. It was determined, how properly it is not now necessary to enquire, that it was no bar to an action on a policy in one of the courts of *Westminster*, to alledge that the plaintiff had before sued the defendant, for the same cause, in the court of policies of insurance, and that his suit was there dismissed (c). And it is not a little singular, that though this was decided in the year 1656, before the stat. 13 & 14 C. II., the framers of that act made no provision to remedy a defect that must sooner or later prove fatal to the jurisdiction of the court.—3. It was doubted whether its jurisdiction was not confined to suits brought by the insured against the insurer; and whether it could afford any relief upon a complaint made by the latter against the former (d).—It has been said also, that the jurisdiction of the court was confined to such causes only as arose in *London* (e).—It is true, that the power given by the act is, ‘to hear and determine causes arising on policies of assurance, such as are now, or hereafter shall be, entered in the office of assurances in the city of *London*.’ But we learn from *Malyne* (f) that in this office all policies were registered *verbatim*, to the end that if a policy should be lost, the insured might not be without evidence of the contract; so that it would seem that the object of the above clause was not to confine the jurisdiction of the court to policies made in *London*.

(a) So completely forgotten is this court, that after every enquiry I could make at the different offices in the city, I have been unable to discover where it was held, or whether any records of its proceedings yet remain.—(b) *R. Bendyr v. Oyle*, Sty. 166, 172.—(c) *R. Came v. Moy*, 2 Sid. 121.—(d) *Delbye v. Proudfoot*, 1 Show. 396.—(e) *Park*, Introd. 45.—(f) *Lex merc.* 115.—

But, beside the defects of jurisdiction in the court, and the constant partiality of *Englishmen* for the common law forms of judicature, another cause, appearing on the face of the statute itself, must have, in some degree, contributed to its downfall. The act directs ‘that the commissioners shall, once in every week at least, meet and sit upon the execution of the commission; and that no person, by virtue of the act, might claim or exact any fee, for any matter or cause concerning the execution of the commission.’ With such a clause in the act, it will not be wondered, if the judges and officers of this court did not attend it, with the requisite punctuality, for the dispatch of business. Indeed it would seem, from an observation of Mr. Justice *Twissden*, in the case of *Suister v. Coel*, (a) that the proceedings in this court, ‘where no forms of proceeding were to be observed,’ were even more dilatory than in the courts of *Westminster*.—It is remarkable, too, that the stat. 6 G. I. c. 18. which authorizes the establishment of the two insurance companies, expressly provides that all actions on the policies of these companies shall be brought in the courts of *Westminster*; which shews that, at that time, the court of policies of insurance was already fallen into disuse, or, what is more probable, that it was fallen into disrepute, and that those who promoted these establishments thought it for their interest to oust that court of all jurisdiction in suits upon their policies.

Common law courts.

From this time, it may be reasonably supposed, that all suits on policies of insurance were brought in the courts of common law; and yet but few questions on this subject appear to have been determined in the courts of *Westminster* before the middle of the last century. Whether this arose from the number of insurances in *England* being inconsiderable, compared to what it has since become, or from the parties being still in the habit of settling their differences by arbitration, or from both these causes united, it is not now easy to determine. This, however, is certain, that after some of the decisions of the courts of *Westminster*, upon questions of insurance, came to be generally

(a) 2 Kcb. 930.

known,

known, the confidence which the justice, impartiality, and ability of those courts inspired throughout *Europe*, soon induced the merchants of all countries to prefer *English* insurances to those of any other country. Even our enemies, in time of war, were not afraid to rely on *British* justice, and they still continued to cause the greatest part of their insurances to be effected in *London*, such insurances being for a long time most unaccountably tolerated by the *British* government (a).

During the time when Lord Chief Justice *Lee* presided Lord C. J. *Lee*. in the court of King's Bench, many questions upon policies of insurance came before him which were chiefly decided at *Nisi prius*, but upon such just and sound principles, that very few of them afterwards came before the court for reconsideration.

Upon Lord *Mansfield's* succeeding to the same high Lord *Mansfield*. office, on the death of Sir *Dudley Ryder*, he soon found a considerable influx of business to the court of King's Bench, arising, in a great measure, from the celebrity of his own talents. A great increase of insurances, not only upon *British* commerce, but likewise upon that of other countries, produced, about this time, a number of causes upon this subject, to which it became necessary for him to turn his particular attention; and indeed he seems to have taken pleasure in the discussion of questions arising upon this contract, in which, more, perhaps, than upon any other subject, he displayed the powers of his great and comprehensive mind. From the books of the common law very little could be obtained: but upon the subject of marine law, and the particular subject of insurances, the foreign authorities were numerous, and in general satisfactory. From these, and from the information of intelligent merchants, he drew those leading principles, which may be considered as the common law of the sea, and the common law of merchants, which he found prevailing throughout the commercial world, and to which almost every question of insurance was easily referable. Hence the great celebrity of his judgments

(a) See this subject fully considered *inf.* ch. 2. f. 1.

upon

upon such questions, and hence the respect they commanded in foreign countries (a).

Many great and important questions in the law of insurance have occurred since Lord *Mansfield's* time, the decision of which proves that neither the learning or the talents of the judges of *Westminster Hall*, have been diminished since he retired from it. Nothing, indeed, in the history of the present reign, affords a stronger proof of his Majesty's paternal regard for the welfare and happiness of his people, and of his care of public morals, than the choice of the persons who have been appointed to fill the high judicial offices in the courts of *Westminster*.

Before I conclude these remarks, I feel myself called upon to acknowledge the many valuable illustrations which this work has derived from the decisions of the present very accomplished judge of the High Court of Admiralty; decisions which reflect much honour on our name and nation, and will be contemplated with applause and veneration as long as depth of learning, soundness of argument, enlightened wisdom, and the chaste beauties of eloquence hold any place in the estimation of mankind.

Sir William
Scott,

(a) Of this there cannot be a better proof than the following:—*Emerigon*, though not altogether free from national prejudices, after giving an account of the decision of the court of King's Bench, in the case of *Lavabre v. Walter*, concludes with these words;—‘*On ne sauroit s’empêcher d’admirer cette manière de procéder, quelque éloignée qu’elle soit de nos mœurs; car l’impression que fait la vertu sur nous est si forte, que nous l’aimons jusques dans nos ennemis mêmes.*’ (This was written in 1781.)—*Tanta vis probitatis est, ut eam in hoste etiam diligamus. Cic. de amicitia, c. 9.* ‘*Les juges en Angleterre ne croient pas, que ce soit assez de bien faire; ils donnent les motifs de leur décision, afin qu’on sache qu’on est soumis à l’empire de la loi, plutôt qu’à l’autorité de l’homme.*’ *Emerig. vol. 2, p. 67.*

CHAP. II.

Of the Parties to the Contract.

IN treating of any contract, the parties to it are necessarily the first subject of consideration. These, in the contract of insurance, are, as has been already said, the insured and the insurer. Our business in the present chapter, will therefore be to enquire,

- I. *What persons may be insured ;*
- II. *What persons may be insurers.*

Sect. I.

What Persons may be insured.

Vid. c. 3. s. 3, 4.

IN this country, all persons, whether *British* subjects or aliens, may, in general, be insured. The principal, if not the only exception to this rule is, the case of an *alien enemy*.

It was long a disputed question, whether, in point of policy, the insurance of the property of the enemies of the state, in time of war, ought to be tolerated. This question has, more than once, been agitated in Parliament. In the year 1741, a bill was brought into the House of Commons to prohibit insurances on the ships and effects belonging to the subjects of *France*, then at war with *Great Britain*. The arguments of Sir *John Bernard* against the policy of such a restriction, though answered by Sir *Robert Walpole* and others, by arguments much more cogent and satisfactory, seem to have had greater weight upon that occasion than they merited ; for though the bill was committed, it was afterwards dropped (a). In the year 1748, however, a bill was again brought in, to prohibit the insurance of the ships and merchandize of the subjects of *France*, during the con-

Whether an alien enemy may be insured.

Such insurance occasionally restrained by statute.

(a) Vid. *Parl. Deb.* published in 1742, Vol. 2. p. 459.

tinuance of the war with that country. And, though this was strenuously opposed by Sir *Dudley Ryder* and Mr. *Murray*, then attorney and solicitor general, upon what they considered to be principles of policy and expedience, yet it passed into a law (a). A similar law has been made by the stat. 33 G. III. c. 27. s. 4. which not only declares such insurances to be void, but also subjects the parties concerned in them to three months imprisonment; so that, to judge by the opinion of the legislature, the policy of such a prohibition seems to be now pretty well established.

Whether at common law such insurance be valid.

Still, however, these restrictions being only temporary, it will be proper to enquire how the law stands, independently of them.

In every declaration of war is implied a prohibition of all the King's subjects to trade with the enemy; or, by the intervention of friends or allies, to convey to them ammunition, provisions, or any kind of succour. This, it would seem, comprehends, also, a prohibition to insure the effects of the enemy, whether in their own ships or in those of neutrals. For, to insure their property, is in effect, nearly the same thing as to trade with them.

Opinions of foreign writers.

All the foreign writers agree that this contract cannot be lawfully made between the subjects of states at war with each other. *Bynkershoek*, who has written a chapter on this very question (b), condemns such insurances as being contrary both to law and good policy. After defining insurance, he says, '*Præmissi quemadmodum asscuratio sit definienda, ut vel ex definitione constaret, rationem belli omni modo exigere, ne naves, ne merces, ne alia hostium bona liceat asscurare. Hostium periculum in se suscipere, quid est aliud quam eorum commercia maritima promovere.— Justissimum id videri poterat, quia in singulis belli indicationibus quisque tantum hostibus damni inferre jubetur, quantum potest. Quod si sit, etiam vetatur quoquo modo hostium utilitati consulere. Id exigit jus belli generale. Sin aias, ex ejusmodi asssecurationibus, plus lucri quam damni ferre asssecuratores, adeoque nostris quam hostibus, plus pro-*

(a) Stat. 21 G. II. c. 4.—(b) *Quæst. jur. pub. lib. 1, c. 21.*
—Vid. *Le Guidon*, ch. 2, s. 5. *Pothier* h. t. n. 92.

‘*desse, id ais, quod est incertissimum, & de quo vix ipsa experientia judicare poterit, cum interim sit certissimum, sic hostibus causam præberi commercia sua latius promovendi. Quod, quia hostibus est utile, & fere redundat in nostram necem, omni ratione prohibendum est.*’

Valin (a), after shewing that in *France* the insurance of enemy's property was contrary to the law of that country, observes, in language bordering a little upon decision, that the *English* did not consider the insurance of enemy's property as prohibited by a declaration of war:—
 ‘For,’ says he, ‘they constantly, during the last war (b), insured our ships and cargoes, as in time of peace; whether they were destined for *France* or her colonies, or for the ports of her allies, or those of neutrals:’
 ‘That, it is true,’ adds he, ‘did not prevent our ships, when taken, being declared good Prize; but the consequence was, that one part of that nation restored to us, by the effect of insurance, what the other took from us by the rights of war.’

To this observation an *Englishman* might add, that in every contest between these rival nations, the naval superiority of *Great Britain*, if not counteracted, must, in a short time, ruin the commerce of *France*, provided it be not protected by *British* insurance. But, with that protection, the utmost they can suffer will be the loss of their premiums; and this will in all probability be more than compensated by the captures made by their own cruisers. Thus will this country lose one of the greatest benefits she can hope to derive from her maritime strength.

Reasons of policy against such insurance.

But whatever may be the policy of permitting such insurance, it seems that, till lately, a notion prevailed in this country, and which has been supported by constant practice, that the insurance of enemy's property, when unre-

(a) *Valin* h. t. art. 3. p. 32. vid. *Pothier* h. t. n. 95.—

(b) *Valin* published his work in 1766, therefore the war he alludes to must be that which was terminated by the peace of Paris in 1763.

Lord Mansfield's
sentiments on
this point.

strained by statute, *was not illegal* (a); and the occasional restraint of such insurance, from time to time by acts of parliament, has been fairly enough called in aid, to shew that such was the opinion of the legislature, or that the question was, at least, doubtful when those acts passed. This practice, after all, seems to have arisen in *England*, rather from a notion of policy and expedience, than from any principle of law. Mr. Justice *Buller*, in delivering his opinion in the case of *Bell v. Gilson* (b) says;—"In the years 1746 and 1747, Sir *Dudley Ryder*, Lord *Mansfield*, and other great men of that time, argued the question entirely on its expedience, and held that it was good policy to permit insurances on enemy's property. In later times, I well remember to have seen many policies tried, professedly on enemy's property, without ever hearing the objection raised. Lord *Mansfield* did all in his power to prevent so dishonourable a defence being made. When the case of *Giff v. Mason* (c) came on, I more than once conversed with Lord *Mansfield* on the subject, being desirous to obtain his opinion on the legality of such insurances. On the *legality*, however, I never could get him to reason. He often said, that in former times it was considered to be for the interest of the country to insure enemy's property; and, on this persuasion he always *discountenanced* any objection on that head. But he never went beyond the ground of *expedience*. *At present*, I think such insurances are not expedient. The state of the countries at war is such as to make them otherwise."

From this statement of the learned judge, it is evident that he himself doubted, at least, of the legality of insurances on enemy's property, and that the opinion which

(a) Vid. the opinion of Lord *Hardwicke* in the case of *Henkle v. Roy. Ex. Aff.* 1 Vez. 320, and that of Lord *Mansfield*, in *Planché v. Fletcher*, Doug. 241. and in *Giff v. Mason*, int. 36.; also the arguments for the plaintiff in the case of *Bristow v. Towers*. 6 T. R. 35.—(b) 1 Bos. and Pul. 354. post. ch. 3. s. 4.—(c) 1 T. R. 84.

he so anxiously fought, and which Lord *Mansfield* seems so studiously to have withheld, was, that, *in point of law*, they were void; but that he thought the law of *England* was, in this respect, impolitic or unwise.—Entertaining this opinion, it was certainly competent to him and Sir *Dudley Ryder*, as members of parliament, to argue against the policy of the law, when the question was agitated there, whether these insurances should be restrained by an express statute or not; because every member of parliament has an undoubted right to call in question the wisdom, or the policy, of any rule of law, when he opposes the passing of a bill which is meant to enforce the observance of it. But to avow or insinuate that it might, in any case, be proper for a judge to prevent a party from availing himself of an indisputable principle of law, in a court of justice, upon the ground of some notion of fancied policy or expedience, is a new doctrine in *Westminster Hall*, and has a direct tendency to render all law vague and uncertain. A rule of law, once established, ought to remain the same till it be annulled by the legislature, which alone has the power to decide on the policy or expedience of repealing laws, or suffering them to remain in force. What politicians call expedience, often depends on momentary conjunctures, and is frequently nothing more than the fine spun speculations of visionary theorists, or the suggestions of party and faction. If expedience, therefore, should ever be set up as a foundation for the judgments in *Westminster Hall*, the necessary consequence must be, that a judge would be at full liberty to depart to-morrow from the precedent he has himself established to-day; or to apply the same decisions to different, or different decisions to the same circumstances, as his notions of expedience might dictate. Indeed the learned judge himself has given us an instance of this; for he says, that in the then war, he thinks the insurance of enemy's property would not be expedient; and ~~that~~ he informs us, that Lord *Mansfield* was of opinion that it was for the interest of the country, in his time, to encourage it.

Gist v. Mason,
1 T. R. 84.

If a policy be not illegal on the face of it, the court will not grant a new trial, to let in the defendant to shew by evidence that the insurance was upon a trading with the enemy.

In the case alluded to by Mr. Justice *Buller*, the court avoided the general question, by refusing a new trial; which would have enabled the defendants to prove the fact of trading with the enemy.—That was an action brought to recover the premiums upon several policies of insurance, underwritten by the plaintiff for the defendants, who were *West India* merchants, and had acted as their own brokers in getting these insurances effected.—Upon the trial of the cause, it appeared, that the defendants had property in the *West India* islands, at the time they were captured by the *French* during the *American* war; that it was a constant practice to supply these islands with provisions from *Ireland*, notwithstanding they were in the hands of the enemy; and that, in this trade, the defendants had employed neutral vessels, which they caused to be insured from different parts of the continent, to *Ireland*, *Madeira*, and *Saint Thomas's*, with liberty to go to any one of the captured islands.—On the part of the defendants, it was contended at the trial, that these voyages were illegal; and as both parties were in *pari delicto*, the maxim of law, *melior est conditio possidentis*, ought to prevail.—But Lord *Mansfield*, being of opinion that these policies were not illegal on the face of them, directed a verdict for the plaintiff.—In his address to the jury, he said,—“It is for the benefit of this country to permit these contracts upon two accounts; the one because you hold the box, and get the premiums, at least as a certain profit; the other, because it is a certain way of obtaining intelligence of the enemy’s designs; and I have known instances of intelligence procured by such methods (a).”—The defendants afterwards moved for a new trial, to let them into evidence to prove the nature of this trade, which was so notoriously illegal, that the plaintiffs must have known it to be so. And, as an excuse for not offering this evidence at the trial, it was said that it had been omitted on a presumption that the jury, of their own knowledge, must have concluded that

(a) This address to the jury does not make a part of the case in the Term Reports, but is taken from *Park*, 242.

the illegality of these contracts was known to the plaintiff at the time he underwrote the policies. But the court refused to grant a new trial. Lord *Mansfield* said,—“This, *upon the face of it*, is the case of a neutral vessel; and it is no where laid down, that policies on neutral property, though bound to an enemy’s port, are void. And indeed I know no cases that prohibit, even a subject, trading with the enemy, except two; one a short note in *Roll’s Abridgment* (a), where trading with *Scotland*, then at war with *England*, was held to be illegal; and the other was a note, which was given me by Lord *Hardwicke*, of a reference in King *William’s* time to all the judges, on the question, whether it was a crime at common law, to carry corn to the enemy in time of war; who were of opinion that it was a misdemeanour. By the maritime law, trading with an enemy is cause of confiscation in a subject, provided he be taken in the act; but this does not extend to a neutral vessel.”

Upon this case it will be sufficient to observe, that even the arguments of policy urged by Lord *Mansfield* are by no means satisfactory. The profit arising from these insurances is far from certain; nor does it appear that they are likely to afford intelligence of the enemy’s designs, without affording them, at the same time, the means of obtaining much better intelligence of ours. Every person concerned in these insurances must be under a strong temptation to convey to the enemy all such information as may put them upon their guard, at least, against attacks meditated against their trade; whereas the parties insured have no motive of interest to disclose the designs of their own government.—Independently, therefore, of the general question of the illegality of holding commerce with the king’s enemies, it cannot reasonably be supposed that the law would tolerate a contract which has so strong a tendency to betray a number of persons into a breach of their allegiance. But, be this as it may, two cases occurred while Lord *Kenyon* presided in the court of King’s Bench, in which, though it was not expressly

Reasons against the policy of permitting the insurance of enemies’ goods.

(a) 2 *Roll. Ab.* 173.—Vid. case of the *Hoch*, 1 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 196.

determined that such insurances are illegal, it was decided, that no action can be maintained on any policy, at the suit, or on the behalf, of an alien enemy, at least during the war, whether the insurance be made before or after the commencement of hostilities, and though the goods insured be of *British* manufacture, and shipped before the war began.

Brandon v. Nesbitt. 6 T. R. 23.

An alien enemy cannot maintain an action on a policy on goods, though they were shipped before the war commenced. Nor can his agent maintain the action, though a creditor of the insured for more than the sum insured.

The first of these cases was an action on a policy upon goods on board the *Greyhound*, an *American* ship, effected before the passing of the stat. 33 G. III. c. 27 (a). “at and from *London* to *Bayonne*.”—It was averred in the declaration, that the policy was effected on account of certain persons therein named, who were interested in the goods, and that the ship was captured by the *English*.
 ‘—The defendant pleaded, *first*,—‘That the persons interested were aliens, born in *France*, within the allegiance of the *French* King; that before the ship sailed, a war broke out between the King of *Great Britain* and the persons exercising the powers of government in *France*; that the persons interested were inhabiting and commorant in *France*, under the government there; and that they were enemies of our King, and adhering to his enemies,’ &c.—*Secondly*, ‘That the defendants were living in *France*, and enemies of the King; and that the goods were sent from *London*, after the commencement of the war, for the purpose of being landed in *France*, and delivered in a course of trade to the King’s enemies.’—To the first of these pleas, the plaintiffs replied,—‘That the persons interested were indebted to them in more than the value of the goods insured; and to the second,—‘That the goods were not prohibited at the time when the policy was effected, and that they were shipped before the commencement of the war.’—Upon demurrer to each of these replications, the court gave judgment for the defendant, being clearly of opinion, that no action whatever could be maintained by, or on behalf of, an alien enemy.—Lord Kenyon said, ‘that the case of *Antlion v. Fisher* (b), pro-

(a) Sup. 32.—(b) *Doug.* 648, 9, n.

ceeded on the same principle ; that there was no case in which the action had been supported in favour of an alien enemy ; for though it was held in *Ricord v. Bettingham* (a), that the action by an enemy on a ransom bill might be maintained, the action was not brought till peace was restored."

In the other case it appeared that the plaintiff, as agent, in pursuance of directions for that purpose, caused an insurance to be made on account of *Arrouet* and others, subjects of *France*, on goods, consisting of *British* manufactures, shipped on board the *Nancy*, an *American* vessel, on the 19th of *March* 1793; that previous to the insurance and shipping of the goods, general reprisals were granted against *France*, and an embargo laid on all foreign vessels, except those belonging to states in amity with the king, not having naval or military stores, or any other prohibited articles on board; and that the ship having sailed on her voyage, was captured by the *English*, and the goods insured condemned as *French* property — The court held clearly that this case could not be distinguished from the foregoing case of *Brandon v. Nesbitt*, and therefore gave judgment for the defendant.

Bristow v. Towers, 6 T. R. 35.

Neither can an action be maintained on a policy on the property of an alien enemy, though of *British* manufacture exported from hence.

Here, the insurance being on property belonging to persons who were in the situation of alien enemies at the time the policy was effected, afforded an opportunity of deciding the general question. But though the objection was made and fully argued, yet, according to the report of the case, the court expressed no opinion on that point, but gave judgment for the defendant, without stating any other ground than that it could not be distinguished from the case of *Brandon v. Nesbitt*. — But as the ground of the decision in that case was not, that the contract was void, but merely that an action could not be maintained at the suit of an *alien enemy*, the general question, whether any loss by *British* capture could be recovered upon an *English* policy, remained undecided till the following case came to be determined in the court of Common Pleas.

(a) 3 *Bur.* 1734, 1 *Bl.* 563.

Furtado v. Rodgers, 3 Bos. & Pul. 191.

No action can be maintained for a loss by *British* capture, though the policy was effected previous to the war, and the action brought after. But, *quære*, whether an action, in such case, might not have been maintained for any other loss.

An insurance was made in *October* 1792, on the ship *Petronelli*, the property of the plaintiff, a *French* subject resident at *Bayonne*, "At and from *Bayonne* to *Martinique*, " and at and from thence back to *Bayonne*."—The ship sailed on the voyage insured in *October*, and arrived in *November* 1792 at *Martinique*, where she was unavoidably detained till *March* 1794; at which time, war having broke out between *France* and *England*, the ship, with many other *French* vessels, was, upon the capture of that island, taken by the *English*. At the time the policy was effected, *Great Britain* was in amity with *France*, and so continued until *February* 1793, when hostilities commenced between them.—In an action upon the policy, brought after the cessation of hostilities, to recover the loss by capture, the court unanimously determined in favour of the defendant.—Lord *Alvanley*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said, that the insurance of enemies' property was illegal at common law, for the reasons assigned by *Bynkershoek* and *Valin*, as cited above (a); that there is no material distinction between insuring enemies' property, and insuring against *British* capture; and that, though, by the terms of the policy, the underwriters engage to indemnify the insured against all captures and detentions of prizes, without any exception of the acts of their own government, yet, that an exception of *British* captures must be implied in the contract, though the policy was effected before the commencement of hostilities (b); and that if an insurance were expressly made against such captures, it would be void by the law of *England*.—He added, that, in his opinion, the insurance was good against all other losses but that arising from capture by the *British* forces (c).

A short

(a) Sup. 32, 33.—(b) Vid. *Brewster v. Kitchell*, 1 Salk. 198, where Lord C. J. *Holt* held that if a man covenant to do a thing which is lawful, and an act of parliament come and hinder him from doing it, the covenant is repealed. Vid. *Dy.* 27. pl. 178.—(c) Upon this last point Lord *Alvanley* seems to have expressed his own opinion rather than that of the court. In the case of *Brandon v. Curling*, which will be mentioned

A short time previous to the decision of this case in the court of Common Pleas, that of *Nantes v. Thompson* was determined in the court of King's Bench.—It was an action on a policy on a foreign ship and goods, on a voyage from *Elfiner* to several ports in *Spain*; and it was stated in the declaration that the ship in the course of her voyage arrived in *Plymouth Sound*, and was there arrested and detained by order of His Majesty, and was afterwards condemned as *lawful prize* in the *High Court of Admiralty*. There was a demurrer to the declaration, assigning for cause that it was not stated on whose account the policy was made, or what persons were interested in the ship and goods insured.—But it was never objected, either at the bar or by the court, that this action was brought to recover a loss occasioned by *British* capture; and the plaintiff had judgment.

Nantes v. Thompson, 2 *East* 385. *inf.* ch. 16. §. 2.

Case of a recovery for a loss by *British* capture.

A more recent case has occurred in that court in which a foreign ship, insured in the usual form, was stated to have been “*taken as prize by our Lord the King*.”—Upon demurrer to the declaration, one question was, whether an insurance made in *England* can operate as an indemnity against *British* capture.—The court determined that no action can be maintained to recover a loss by *British* capture.—Lord *Ellenborough* in delivering the opinion of the court, said, that an insurance against *British* capture, *eo nomine*, would be illegal and void upon the face of it (a).

Kell v. Le Mesurier, 4 *East* 396. *inf.* ch. 15. §. 3.

No action can be maintained to recover a loss by *British* capture.

So, where the plaintiffs, who were *French* subjects resident at *Dunkirk*, caused an insurance to be made in *London* on the ship *Æole* and goods on board, from *St. Domingo* to *Dunkirk*; and the policy was effected in *September 1792*, when this country was in amity with *France*. In *September 1793*, after hostilities had broke out between those coun-

Gamba v. Le Mesurier, 4 *East* 407.

French property insured in time of peace, is captured by the *English* upon war breaking out: An action will not lie, to recover for this loss, even after peace is restored.

tioned presently, Lord *Ellenborough* lays it down that, in every policy on alien property, there is an implied exception of all losses during the existence of hostilities between the respective countries of the insured and the insurers.

(a) In a subsequent case, (*Lubbock v. Potts*, *inf.* 43.) the same court held that this doctrine of Lord *Ellenborough* must be taken with reference to the case of a policy on a *foreign ship*, which could not be insured against capture, in case of hostilities.

tries.

tries, the *Æole*, with her cargo on board, was captured at *St. Domingo* by the *English*. After peace was restored, an action was brought on the policy, to recover for this loss.—But, the court determined that this action, being brought to recover a loss by *British* capture, could not be maintained.

*Brandon v. Cur-
ling, 4 East 410.*

Goods purchased in *England* on account of *Frenchmen*, are shipped and insured before, but exported after, hostilities commenced between *Great Britain* and *France*, and are captured by a co-belligerent.—The insured cannot recover for this loss.

Even where goods, purchased in *London* for account of certain *French* subjects resident at *Bayonne*, were, in *January* 1793, shipped on board the *Greyhound*, warranted an *American* ship, and on the 21st of the same month insured on a voyage from *London* to *Bayonne*. On the 4th of *February* 1793, bills of lading were signed, and on the following day forwarded to the consignees at *Bayonne*. On the same 4th of *February* an embargo was laid on all *French* ships and property in the ports of *Great Britain*. On the 11th of *February* the ship sailed from *London* for *Bayonne*, having been first regularly cleared out for that voyage. On the 12th of *February* war was declared against *France*. In the latter end of *February* the ship was obliged to put into a port in *Spain*, and before she could proceed on her voyage to *Bayonne*, the cargo was seized by the officers of the King of *Spain*, then at war with *France*, and afterwards condemned as prize.—In an action on the policy to recover for the loss occasioned by this seizure and detention, the court determined that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover.—Lord *Ellenborough*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said, that in the foregoing cases of *Kellner v. Le Mesurier*, and *Gamba v. Le Mesurier*, it was the opinion of the court, that the general terms of insurance against capture in our policies, are to be understood as virtually containing an exception of such captures as might eventually be made by his Majesty and his subjects, and against which a *British* subject could not, consistently with his public duty, insure in direct terms; and, consequently, that wherever the generality of the terms of insurance might produce a similar contravention of public interest, they must be so construed as to exclude the particular event or peril which could not be made the subject of legal insurance in direct terms;

In every policy on alien property there is an implied exception of all losses, during hostilities between the respective countries of the insured and insurer,

terms; and, therefore, that an insurance on goods generally, must be understood with a proviso, that it shall not extend to cover any loss happening during the existence of hostilities, between the respective countries of the insured and insurer (a).

In a subsequent case, after a ship and cargo had been insured from *Trinidad* to *Gibraltar*, at a premium of 20 guineas *per cent.*, to return 1*cl.* for convoy; the underwriters, in consideration of a further premium of five guineas *per cent.*, agreed to insure “against all risks “whatsoever, *British* capture, seizure, and detention included.”—It was contended on the part of the underwriters, on the authority of what was said in *Kellner v. Le Mesurier* (b), that this memorandum extending the insurance to *British* capture, &c., vitiated the policy.—In answer to this it was alledged, that the memorandum was legal; for that *British* property might, through ignorance or wrong, be seized, captured, &c. by *British* ships of war, and loss and damage would thereupon ensue, though the property were afterwards liberated; against which loss the insured might lawfully contract to be indemnified.—The court seemed to concur in this opinion, and observed that what was said in *Kellner v. Le Mesurier* must be taken with reference to the case of a policy on a *foreign* ship, which could not be insured against *British* capture, in case of hostilities. They also seemed to think, that the memorandum might be construed to extend to protect the insured against losses arising from unlawful capture, &c. by *British* ships; or even from temporary lawful detention, without any fault of the insured; and that, taken in this sense, the memorandum would not vitiate the policy. But the cause was decided upon another point (c).

But a neutral, though residing in the enemy’s country, and carrying on trade there, and even in partnership with an alien enemy, may insure his interest in the joint property.

(a) Vid. the case of *Furtado v. Rodgers*, sup. 40. in which Lord *Alvanley* declares it to be his opinion that, an insurance of foreign property is good against all other losses but that arising from capture by *British* forces.—(b) Sup. 41. inf. ch. 15. l. 3.—(c) Vid. inf. ch. 3. l. 2.

Lubbock v. Potts,
7 *East* 449.

It seems that *British* property may be legally insured against *British* capture, seizure, and detention; but that *foreign* property cannot be insured against *British* hostile capture.

Rotch v. Edie,
6 T. R. 413.
ins. ch. 12. §. 5.

A neutral residing in the enemy's country, and carrying on trade there in partnership with an alien enemy, may insure his own interest in the joint property.

As, where an insurance was made on the half of a ship, &c. "at and from *L'Orient* to the southern whale fishery."—In an action brought to recover a loss by the detention of the *French* government, it appeared that the insured was a subject of the *United States of America*, and had formerly resided several years in *London*, but for some years previous to the making of the insurance in question, had dwelt at *L'Orient*, and was jointly concerned in the southern whale fishery, with *M. Berard*, a native of *France*, resident at *L'Orient*, but their interests were insured by separate policies, effected by separate agents. The plaintiff, shortly before making the insurances in question, came to *England*, and returned to *France* previous to the commencement of hostilities with *Great Britain*; and, having remained there about four months, returned again to *England*, and continued to reside there from that time.—It was insisted on the part of the defendant, that, as the insured, at the time the insurance was effected, was domiciled, and carried on trade in *France*, and owed a temporary allegiance to the governing power of that country, the objection applied as strongly to his recovering, as if he were a natural born subject of that country.—But the court determined, that the plaintiff, not being an alien enemy, but a native of *America*, and then residing in *England*, was under no disability to sue in this case; and that the consequence of allowing this objection would be, to render it illegal to insure the property of neutrals in an enemy's port.

SECT. II.

What Persons may be Insurers.

Underwriters.

INSURANCE is a species of game which requires great prudence and circumspection in those who are engaged in it as underwriters. They should be expert in analysing risks and calculating probabilities; in foreseeing the dangers of the sea, and the danger of fraud. They should be able to form a sound judgment by combining all circumstances, and comparing them with the rate of premium. To form such a judgment, in many cases requires great

great sagacity, penetration, and experience. But if men possessing all these advantages are sometimes deceived, what must be the situation of those who, allured by the desire of gain, blindly put their signatures to every policy that is presented to them, without considering the precipice to which their temerity leads them. A wise underwriter will judge for himself, and not implicitly follow others who may have subscribed before him, however remarkable for sagacity and experience (a).

In *France*, underwriters, if we may credit some of the best authors of that country, were never remarkable for their readiness to do justice to the insured. They are accused of resorting to captious exceptions and fraudulent subterfuges to elude the payment of their losses (b). *Affecuratores plerumque differenda solutionis gratia, nodum in scirpo querunt* (c).

Character of the
French under-
writers.

With us, if there are a few underwriters who, under the guidance of ill advisers, sometimes set up unworthy objections, there are many who are the victims of their own good faith and easy credulity (d). The most cautious find it extremely difficult to escape the snares which knavery prepares for them. No wonder, then, if they are sometimes tempted to make captious exceptions, when it is considered that they can only see with the eyes of the insured; that, in general, they can only defend themselves by such papers, and other scraps of evidence as they can obtain from the same quarter; and that, with all the precautions they can employ, they often pay what they might justifiably dispute.

Character of
those of *England*.

At common law, any man, or company of men, might be insurers; and individuals, upon their own separate account, have still the same right.—But, it was supposed, or pretended, about the beginning of the last century, that

The two insu-
rance companies
erected by the
6 G. 1. c. 18.

(a) *Pondere se i firmati possino essere del fino da indurre altri, Targa, c. 52, n. 33.*

(b) *Vid. Emerig. vol. 2. p. 244. On les a comparés aux femmes qui conçoivent avec plaisir, & qui enfantent avec douleur. —*

(c) *Straccha gl. 29. n. 1. — (d) Modernis his temporibus, quibus fraudes à NAVARCHIS frequentius committuntur, digni potius miseratione censeri debent affecuratores, quam affecurati. Consaregis, disc. 11, n. 3.*

- commerce had suffered considerably by persons in insolvent circumstances underwriting policies of insurance; and having received large sums in premiums, becoming bankrupts, or otherwise failing in making good their losses. To remedy this; but more, perhaps, to enable government to raise a sum of money by the sale of a monopoly, it was thought expedient to erect two companies for the purpose of making marine insurances, with such funds to answer all demands on their policies, as might give confidence to such mercantile adventurers as were unwilling to depend on individual underwriters; still, however, leaving to merchants the option of insuring with such underwriters when they thought proper. To this end, the stat. 6 G. I. c. 18. authorised the King to grant charters to two distinct companies or corporations for the insurance of ships, goods and merchandizes at sea, or going to sea, and for lending money on bottomry. They were to be invested with all the powers usually granted to corporations, and the privilege of purchasing lands to the amount of 100*cl. per annum*. Each was to provide a sufficient capital, and a competent stock of ready money, to answer all demands on their policies.

A charter
granted to each,
22d of June,
1720.

In pursuance of the powers given by this act, the two proposed companies, the one called the *Royal Exchange Assurance*, and the other, the *London Assurance*, were established by Royal charters, bearing date the 22d day of June, 1720.

All other companies are restrained from insuring ships and goods at sea, or lending money on bottomry.

But the most important privilege granted by this act to these companies was the exclusive right of making marine insurances, and lending money on bottomry, as a *company or partnership, on a joint capital*. For this purpose the act (sect 12) declares that, ‘during the continuance
‘ of these corporations respectively, all other corporations
‘ then in being, or afterwards to be established, whether
‘ sole or aggregate, and all societies and partnerships for
‘ insuring ships and merchandizes at sea, or going to sea,
‘ and for lending money on bottomry, shall be restrained
‘ from granting, signing, or underwriting, any policies
‘ of insurance upon any ships, goods, or merchandizes,
‘ at sea, or going to sea, and from lending money on
bottomry:

‘ bottomry : And that if any corporation or persons in
 ‘ partnership, (other than the said two companies), shall
 ‘ presume to grant, sign, or underwrite any such policy,
 ‘ or make any such contract of insurance, every such
 ‘ policy shall be *ipso facto* void ; and all sums, so signed
 ‘ and underwritten, shall be forfeited, one moiety to the
 ‘ King, the other to the informer, who shall sue for the
 ‘ same in any of the courts of *Westminster*. And if any
 ‘ such corporation or partnership, (other than the said
 ‘ two companies respectively), shall lend, or agree to
 ‘ lend, any money on bottomry, the bond, or other secu-
 ‘ rity for the same, shall be void, and such agreement
 ‘ adjudged to be an usurious contract, and the offenders
 ‘ shall suffer as in cases of usury. Nevertheless it is de-
 ‘ clared, that any private or particular person or persons
 ‘ shall be at liberty to underwrite any policies, and en-
 ‘ gage in any insurances, upon ships, goods, or merchan-
 ‘ dizes, at sea, or going to sea, or may lend money on
 ‘ bottomry ; so as the same be not upon account or risk
 ‘ of any corporation, company, or partnership.

And all policies made by any such company shall be void, and the sums underwritten forfeited.

And all bottomry bonds deemed usurious.

But the right of individual insurers continues as before the act.

The rights and privileges of the *East India* and *South Sea* companies, which they enjoyed before, are reserved and secured to them by this act, except as to the insurance of ships and merchandize.

The monopoly thus granted to these companies, was expected to prove so profitable that, as the price of it, each of them agreed to pay 300,000*l.* into the *Exchequer* for discharging the debts of the civil list. But (by § 15.) upon three years notice, at any time within thirty-one years, and repayment of the 300,000*l.*, each of these corporations might be determined by a vote of the House of Commons.

Consideration paid for this privilege.

How these companies may be dissolved.

And (by § 16.) it is provided that if, after the expiration of the thirty-one years, the king should judge the further continuance of these corporations to be hurtful or inconvenient to the public, he may, by letters patent, revoke or avoid them, without any inquisition or *scire facias* for that purpose. However, they very soon found, or pretended, that they had agreed to purchase this monopoly at too high a price ; for, in the very next year, it appears by the stat. 7 G. I. c. 27. § 26., that

£188,750 of the quota of each company remained unpaid; and this sum, on account of the difficulties they were then supposed to labour under, was remitted to them.

Whether they ought to be suffered to continue.

As it is now become a maxim confirmed by the experience of ages, that every permanent monopoly is pernicious and hurtful to the best interests of the public, it is a question well worthy of the serious consideration of government, whether the continuance of these companies ought to be any longer tolerated. It requires no arguments to prove that it would be highly conducive to the interests of commerce, if underwriters were permitted to subscribe policies of insurance in their partnership names, and upon a joint capital.

Contracts made in derogation of the rights of the insurance companies are illegal and void.

So long, however, as these companies are suffered to retain this monopoly, the law will protect them in the enjoyment of it; and, therefore, contracts made in derogation of their rights will be deemed illegal.—Thus, the object of the 12th section of the act was, not only to restrain avowed partnerships from making insurances publicly in their partnership names, but also to secure to these companies the exclusive right of insuring ships and goods at sea, *as a company, upon a joint capital*, by making it illegal to employ any other joint stock in this species of insurance. And the following case will shew, that no contract arising out of any agreement made in derogation of this right can be legal or binding.

Mitchell v. Cockburn, 2 H. Bl. 379

A. and B. are jointly engaged in insurances in the name of A.; and A. pays more in losses than he receives in premiums, and both become bankrupts.—A.'s assignees shall not recover from those of B.; a moiety of the money thus advanced.

A. and B. who were jointly engaged in the business of insurance, which was carried on in the name of A., became bankrupts.—A. having paid much more for losses than he had received in premiums, his assignees brought an action against the assignee of B. to recover a moiety of the money thus advanced.—Upon the trial before Lord C. J. *Eyre*, the plaintiffs were nonsuited; his lordship being of opinion, that, this demand arising out of a partnership prohibited by the stat. 6 G. I. c. 18., no action could be maintained for it.—Upon a motion to set aside this nonsuit, it was contended on the part of the plaintiffs, that the object of the statute was to prevent a competition between the insurance companies and any other *open and ostensible partnerships*, which might gain credit

credit in opposition to the companies ; but here only one individual appeared, on whose single security the insured relied.—But the court were unanimously of opinion that the nonsuit was right ; for the provisions of the act would be at an end if a person, by insuring in his own name, could have the benefit of a joint capital, which the act expressly prohibits, though the party subscribing shall be stopped from setting up a secret partnership to defeat a *bonâ fide* insurance.

So, where an underwriter paid the whole loss upon a policy, and one *Bristow*, who had agreed to divide the risk with him, also paid his moiety to the broker.—The underwriter brought an action against the broker for this money, as being money received by him from *Bristow* to his use.—Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, was clearly of opinion, that this was a partnership within the act of parliament ; and held that the underwriter could not maintain an action against the broker to recover the moiety so paid to him by *Bristow*, and nonsuited the plaintiff.—“ If,” said his Lordship, “ a single name appear upon the policy, as in this case, the insurer shall never be allowed, if a loss happen, to defeat a *bonâ fide* insurance, by saying to an innocent person, that there was a secret partnership between himself and another, so as to avoid the policy. But here the plaintiff is himself the underwriter, who comes to enforce an illegal contract : It is a partnership *pro hac vice* ; and this party cannot apply to a court to enforce a contract founded in a breach of the law.”—No motion was made to set aside this nonsuit ; and Lord *Kenyon*, some time after, took occasion to mention to the bar, that he had stated the case to the rest of the judges of the court, who all concurred with him in the opinion he had given.

Upon the same principle which governed these two cases, it has also been determined that an action cannot be maintained on behalf of the ostensible underwriter, against the broker who managed the insurances of a partnership, to recover a balance in his hands arising from the profits of those insurances ; even upon the ground

Sullivan v. Graves, at N. P. after East. 1789, Park 8.

A., an underwriter, pays a loss, and B. his secret partner pays his share to the broker for the use of A. :—A. cannot maintain an action to recover this money from the broker.

Not can the ostensible underwriter, on the ground that the partnership was illegal, recover from the broker the profits of such partnership insurances.

that the partnership was illegal, and the ostensible underwriter the sole insurer.

Booth v. Hodgson,
6 T. R. 405.

A. B. and D. become partners as underwriters, in the name of A.—C. and D. receive the premiums as insurance brokers.—A. cannot disaffirm the partnership by insisting that he alone was the insurer, so as to recover from C. and D. the money received by them for A. B. and D.

Thus : A. and B. were partners, as merchants ; and C. and D. were partners, as insurance brokers : A. B. and D. agreed to become partners as underwriters ; but the name of A. only was to be used. Policies were, from time to time, subscribed in the name of A., sometimes by himself, sometimes by D., and premiums were received, which, (after deducting losses, &c.), amounted to £.2455 17s. 1d.—A. and B. employed C. and D. as brokers, to get insurances effected for them, and became indebted to them in £.2269 11s. 5d. for premiums.—A. became bankrupt, and his assignees brought an action against C. and D. to recover the above sum of £.2455 17s. 1d. as money had and received by them to the use of the bankrupt.—Upon this case, the question for the opinion of the court was, whether the plaintiffs were entitled to recover the whole sum of £.2455 17s. 1d. as the net profit of the insurances made in the name of A.; and if so, whether the defendants had a right to set off the £.2269 11s. 5d.—It was insisted on the part of the plaintiffs, that, though the partnership between A. B. and D. as underwriters was illegal and void, and to be laid out of the case, yet the insurances were not so ; and it would be unjust, that, where the insured had had the benefit of the policies, the insurer should be liable to the risk, and yet not be entitled to the premiums ; that as the money must be considered as actually received by the defendants as brokers for A. only, they ought not to object to paying it to his assignees on account of an illegal contract between him and others.—But the court were unanimously of opinion, that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover any thing.—They said, that the object of the stat. 6 G. L. c. 18. was to protect the two companies from any competition with other companies formed into partnerships ; and it enacted that all policies contrary to these provisions should be void ; but, that it was only void as between the insurer and his secret partners, not as between him and the insured, who knew nothing of the partnership ; that, as the plaintiffs, however, avowed that the bankrupt had insured in direct violation of the statute, and

as all their claims arose out of this illegal transaction, the law could give no effect to it; that, as to the money being received by the defendants to the use of A. only, that was an inference contrary to the fact; for they received it for the use of the partners in an illegal partnership; and, as between A. and his partners, the plaintiffs could not be suffered to disaffirm the partnership. They considered the foregoing cases of *Sullivan v. Greaves*, and *Mitchell v. Cockburne*, as clear authorities in favour of the defendants.

It is observable that though the statute declares that every policy subscribed by any other partnership than the two companies shall be *ipso facto* void; yet, in each of the three foregoing cases, it was distinctly declared that though these partnership contracts were void, as between the partners themselves, yet that, as between the underwriter and the insured, who knows nothing of the partnership, they are good and binding. This, indeed, must have been the meaning of the legislature. Therefore, if a single name appear upon the policy, the person who subscribed it shall never be allowed, if a loss happen, to defeat a *bonâ fide* insurance, by saying to an innocent person, that there was a secret partnership between him and another, so as to avoid the policy.

The principle upon which these cases were determined has been since fully approved and confirmed, in a case which came before the court of Common Pleas, while Lord *Eldon* sat as chief justice there.—An arbitrator, after awarding that a sum of money was due from the plaintiff to the defendant, upon the balance of an account, proceeded thus: “And I also find and determine that the said plaintiff is further indebted to the said defendant in the sum of 680*l.* 2*s.*, being one moiety of divers sums of money paid by the defendant, for and on account of losses on policies of insurance, underwritten by agreement between them, *at their joint risk, and for their joint benefit*;” and he accordingly awarded that sum to the defendant.—The arbitrator stated the specific ground of this part of his award for the express purpose of enabling the plaintiff to take the opinion of the court upon the legality of it; and a motion being accordingly

Though such contracts are void, as between the secret partners, they are not so, as between the underwriter and an innocent insured.

Aubert v. Maze,
2 Bosc. and Pul.
371.

An arbitrator awards a balance due from one partner to another, upon joint insurances:—This part of the award is void.

made with that view,—the court were clearly of opinion that the latter part of the award, being founded on the illegal partnership was void, and therefore set it

Watts v. (a)

But Insurances may be legally made upon a joint capital, provided each subscriber be not liable for the whole.

But the rigour of the principle which governed the court, in these decisions, seems to have been, in some degree, relaxed in the two following cases, in which it appears to have been the opinion of Lord *Kenyon*, and the court of *King's Bench*, that insurances may be legally made upon a joint capital, provided each subscriber to it be only liable to the amount of his subscription, and not each for the whole.

Harrison v. Miller, 2 N. P. after Mich. 1796, 7 T. R. 340. n.

A number of ship owners subscribe a sum proportioned to their shipping, to a common stock which becomes a fund for the payment of all losses:—As each individual is only liable for the sum he undertakes, and not each for the whole, the policy so underwritten is not illegal.

The first of these cases was an action on two policies of insurance on the *Ann* and *Elizabeth*, from *Dantzic* to *London*.—The plaintiff and defendant were members of the “*Whitby Association*,” consisting of a number of persons, owners of ships, each of whom in proportion to his shipping, paid a certain sum, which formed the stock of the society. The policies were signed by all the members. They all became insurers for each other, according to the respective values of their ships; and when any loss happened, the treasurer paid it out of the joint stock. The defendant's share of the present loss was 14*l*. Each individual was only liable for the sum he had undertaken.—On the part of the defendant it was objected, that the policies were void in law, as being against the stat. 6 G. I. c. 18.—But Lord *Kenyon*, before whom the cause was tried, over-ruled the objection.—He said,—“This does not infringe on the act of Parliament, as the members of the association have only underwritten in their individual characters: But they cannot underwrite for themselves and partners. If all of them were liable to the extent of their whole stock, it would be illegal. At present the members of this association only stand as individual underwriters for small sums.”

(a) Vid. *Watts v. Brook*, 3 Vex. jun. 312, in which the lord Chancellor allowed an account to stand, though some of the items allowed by the master, were upon partnership insurances. But see lord *Eldon's* observations on this case, 2 Bos. & Pul.

But in the other case it was holden that if the subscribers to such an association agree that, in case of the insolvency of any of the members, his share of any loss shall be made good by the other subscribers, the contract will be void; this being the very species of joint insurance which the statute meant to prohibit.

But an agreement that all shall make good the deficiency, if any become insolvent, is void.

As, where articles of agreement were executed by a number of persons, describing themselves to be owners, and part owners, of ships, who had agreed to become a company or society for the insurance of ships, and who covenanted with a trustee for themselves *severally*, and not jointly, that they would severally engage and bind themselves for the insurance of ships, and parts of ships, belonging to the several parties, along with their own several and respective parts of any ships, from the 1st of June 1787 for 21 years, subject to certain conditions and regulations, &c.; that in case of a total loss of any such ship, the subscribers covenanted *severally* to pay their respective proportions of the sum of 1000*l.* to the person who should have entered, and insured such ship; and one regulation was, ‘That in case any member of the company should become insolvent, or unable to pay a proportionable part of any loss that might happen, *the proportionable part of such insolvent member should be made good by the other members*: and that all costs, charges, and expences of any action brought, or defended, by order of the committee, *should be borne and paid equally by the respective members.*’—In an action of covenant brought on these articles by one of the society against the trustee, the court of *King’s Bench*, upon demurrer, determined that the action could not be maintained; the articles of agreement being void by the stat. 6 G. I. c. 18. s. 12.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“The meaning of the legislature, in passing that act, was, that, as the two insurance companies were to have a monopoly up to a certain extent, in consideration of certain sums of money paid by them to the public, there should be no competition between them and any other public body; but that private individuals might still continue to insure on their own account: The

Lees v. Smith,
7 T. R. 338.

A company agree to insure each other’s ships, and covenant *severally*, and not jointly, to pay in case of loss, in proportion to their respective shares; but in case of the insolvency of any, the others to make good the deficiency:—This is void.

case of *Harrison v. Miller* (a), seems to have been properly decided. There, each person undertook for himself only, according to the value of his own share: But here, in case of the insolvency of any one of the members, all the others were liable to make good his share of the loss: This was adding the credit of the rest of the members of the society, which was the very thing that the act intended to prevent."

(a) Sup. 52.

CHAP. III.

Of the subject matter of marine insurances.

HAVING shewn in the foregoing chapter what persons may be parties to this contract, we now proceed to consider the *subject matter* of it.

It is impossible to conceive a contract of insurance, without supposing something which is insured, and which is the subject matter of such contract.—Marine insurances are commonly made on goods and merchandize, ships, freight, and bottomry loans. But there are certain articles, which, from motives of public policy, cannot be legally insured in this country, and others which can only be insured under particular restrictions. It will be the business of the present chapter to particularize these, and to shew by what laws, and under what circumstances, the insurance of them is regulated or restrained; and this we will do under the following heads, viz.,

- I. *Smuggled goods;*
- II. *Prohibited commerce with the British colonies;*
- III. *Contraband of war;*
- IV. *Commerce with the enemy;*
- V. *The wages and effects of the master and mariners;*
- VI. *Freight.*
- VII. *Slaves;*
- VIII. *Profit.*

Sect. I.

Smuggled Goods.

In general it may be laid down as a rule, that no insurance can be made on any species of goods and merchandizes, intended to be imported or exported, contrary to the laws of this kingdom, or those of its dependencies,

An Insurance on prohibited commerce is void.

or to the law of nations ; and that, if the intended commerce be contrary to any of these laws, an insurance made to protect it will be illegal and void. For the law would be inconsistent with itself, were it to give validity to a contract which is meant to protect a party from the risks attending an infringement of the law. The same principle prevails in all other maritime states ; and foreign writers, particularly the *French*, lay it down as a rule, that the promise of the insurer, however generally expressed, will not comprehend the case of any commerce prohibited by the law of the place where the contract is made (a).

The insurer may take advantage of this objection, though he knew the trade to be illegal.

And, with us, this rule holds, even where the insurer is apprized of the nature of the trade : For though the objection, in such case, must always come with an ill grace from an insurer who has accepted the premium, and promised the indemnity ; yet the courts are bound to allow the objection ; not, indeed, for the sake of the insurer, but in obedience to the law, which is founded on general principles of policy, and, of which, by a sort of accident, the insurer is permitted to take advantage, contrary to the real justice of the case, as between him and the insured (b).

Opinions of foreign writers on this point.

Roccus does not seem to have understood that this objection was founded in *public policy* ; for he considers it as a discharge of the insurer, only where he has had no notice of the illegality of the trade (c). But *Bynkershoek*, with more enlarged notions of jurisprudence, puts this matter

(a) Vid. *Roccus*, h. t. n. 21. *Le Guidon*, ch. 2, art. 2 & 5. *Cleirac*, p. 233. *Valin* sur art. 49. h. t. p. 127. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 58. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 211. Vid. also *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 7. s. 15.—(b) Vid. Lord *Mansfield's* judgment in *Holman v. Johnson*, *Cowp.* 343.—(c) “*Affecuratio facta, quantumvis generalis, non comprehendit res vetitas a portari ; et quando dominus mercium affecuratarum debet fecerit res prohibitas, IGNORANTE ASSSECURATORE, cujus causâ pervenitur ad perditionem mercium vel navis,—non tenetur affecurator.*”—*Roccus*, h. t. n. 21.—*Santerna*, part 4. n. 17. uses the same words, *ignorante affecuratore.*

upon its true ground (a). He holds that the contract is void, though the goods insured be expressly stated to be contraband.

But the mere illegality of the contract has, in many instances, been found insufficient to prevent great frauds from being committed against the revenue, and against the prohibitory restrictions which, from motives of policy, are, from time to time, imposed on different branches of commerce, by persons who, for certain premiums, made it a practice to undertake, at their own risk, to deliver smuggled and contraband goods into the warehouses of the owners, free from duty; thus becoming, not only the carriers, but the *insurers* likewise, of such goods, even against the risk of seizure and confiscation. To remedy this evil, the stat. 4 and 5 *W. and M. c. 15. s. 14.* provides, ‘That all persons, who, by way of insurance or otherwise, shall undertake to deliver any goods imported into *England*, without paying the duty, or any prohibited goods; or shall, in pursuance of such insurance or agreement, knowingly deliver any prohibited or uncustomed goods, shall, for every offence, forfeit 500*l.*, above all other forfeitures.’—The same penalty is imposed on persons who shall agree to pay for such insurance, or knowingly receive such goods.—‘And if the insurer shall discover the same, he shall keep the insurance money, be discharged from all forfeitures, and have half the penalties imposed on the party insured or receiving the goods. If the insurer do not make such discovery, the party insured may do so, and he shall have back his insurance money, and half the penalties imposed on the insurer, and be discharged from his own forfeitures.’—And the stat. 8 and 9 *W. and M. c. 36.* made for the encouragement of the silk manufacture, subjects all persons guilty of delivering foreign alamodes and lustrings to be held to

Ry 4 and 5 *W.* and *M. c. 15.* persons insuring the delivery of smuggled goods, and also the insured, shall forfeit 500*l.*

Encouragement to either party to inform against the other.

In some cases the smuggler may be held to bail

(a) “*Si vel nominatim expressum sit CONTRABANDA, vel res hostiles, affecurari, ne sic quidem affecuratorem teneri, QUIA NULLUS EST CONTRACTUS, et contractus qui nullus est, implere vel non implere, pendit a mera voluntate contrahentium. Quod autem mera voluntatis est in judicio defendi nequit.*” *Bynk. quest. jur. pub. lib. 1. c. 21.*

bail for the penalties imposed by the above act of the 4 and 5 *W. and M.* c. 15.

Penalties for insuring the delivery of wool in foreign parts, or paying for such insurance.

In like manner, it became a practice with persons engaged in the clandestine exportation of wool from *Great Britain* to foreign parts, to insure the delivery of it to the consignee. To restrain this pernicious practice, the stat. 28 *G. III.* c. 38. s. 45 and 9. declares, ‘ That if any person by way of insurance or otherwise, shall undertake or agree that any sheep, wool, &c. shall be carried to parts beyond the seas, from any place within this kingdom; or, in pursuance of such insurance, shall deliver any wool, &c. in parts beyond the seas, such person, and all aiders and assistants, shall, upon conviction, forfeit 50*l.*, and suffer six months solitary imprisonment.’ And (by § 46.) the like punishment is awarded against persons ‘ who shall pay, or agree to pay, for such insurance,’ and the articles insured shall be forfeited. ‘ And (by § 47.) any persons concerned in such insurance, who shall inform against the others, shall be freed from all penalties, and be entitled to the things insured.’ ‘ And (by § 48.) all insurances on goods and merchandizes to be exported from *Great Britain* to foreign parts, which shall afterwards appear to be wool, &c. shall be void, notwithstanding any words or agreement inserted in the policy; and nothing shall be recovered for any loss or damage, or for the premium upon such insurance.’

When the insurance is on goods generally.

Whether a trade prohibited in one country may be the subject of a legal insurance in another.

Whether a trade prohibited by the laws of one country may be the subject of a legal insurance in another, is a question upon which there has been some difference of opinion amongst writers on the law of insurance.—*Valin* (a) supports the affirmative, and says, that though an insurance on goods, the importation or exportation of which is prohibited by the laws of *France*, is void; yet, when the prohibition is by the laws of another country, if the insurer be apprised that the goods insured are contraband, he is bound by the contract: If he be ignorant of this, it is agreed on all hands that he would not be

(a) Art. 49. p. 127.

bound, for he could not be supposed to subject himself to the risk of seizure and confiscation, unless he had notice that the goods were contraband, and received a premium adequate to the nature of the risk. In support of this opinion he cites a sentence of the admiralty of *Marseilles* confirmed by an *arrêt* of the parliament of *Aix* of the 30th of *June* 1758, where the insurance was upon raw silk meant to be smuggled out of *Spain*. This sentence was founded upon a *consultation*, or written opinion, of *Emerigon*, who labours to prove that goods may be insured in *France*, which are contraband only with respect to foreign countries, provided they are not so by the laws of *France*. "The exportation of certain goods," says he, "may be prohibited by his *Catholic Majesty* as strictly as he pleases; but his laws are no rule of conduct for *Frenchmen*, who are unquestionably permitted in *France*, to import bullion, coin, silk, &c. from *Spain*, to supply our coinage, our manufactures, and our commerce." *Potbier* (a), who is generally swayed by purer moral sentiments, combats this doctrine, and insists that the grounds of it are false. His principal arguments are, that a man cannot carry on a contraband trade in a foreign country without engaging the subjects of that country to commit an offence against the laws, which it is their duty to obey; and it is a crime of moral turpitude to engage a man to commit a crime; that a man carrying on commerce in any country, is bound to conform to the laws of that country so long as he remains there (b); and, therefore, to carry on an illicit commerce there, and to engage the subjects of that country to assist him in so doing, is against good faith; and, consequently, a contract made to favour or protect this commerce, is peculiarly unlawful, and can raise no obligation. —By way of reply to these arguments, *Emerigon* (c) says, that *Potbier* would not have been so rigid, if he had

(a) *Potbier*, h. t. n. 58. — (b) *Quare etiam si peregrinus cum civibus paciscatur, tenebitur illis legibus quæ in ea civitate valent: quia qui in loco aliquo contrahit, tanquam subditus temporarius legibus loci subicitur. Grot. jur. bel. lib. 2. c. 11. f. 5.* — (c) Vol. I. p. 212. 215.

considered that smuggling is a vice common to all commercial nations. That the *Spaniards* and *English*, in time of peace, practise it against *France*; and that the *French*, therefore, have a right, by way of reprisals, to do the same towards them; and this, he says, is supported, not by the *authority* of the law, but by the *evasion* of it.

So that, according to *Emerigon*, the *law* is conformable to *Pothier's* sentiments, but the *practice* agreeable to his own. The *morality* of the question is entirely on the side of the latter, though *policy*, perhaps, is on the side of the former. And yet it is difficult to conceive why, with states, as with individuals, honesty should not, in all cases, be deemed the best policy. Certain it is, that neither an individual nor a state can, upon any moral principle, justify the commission of a crime, in order to obtain satisfaction for a wrong done, still less for a wrong apprehended.

The law of *England* pays no regard to the revenue laws of other countries.

Be this as it may, the law of *England*, it is said, pays no regard to the revenue laws of other countries. And it must be confessed that even the legislature has, in one instance, plainly countenanced a contraband trade with foreign nations. The exception in the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. s. 3. enabling persons who carry on a trade with the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* colonies to insure in the same manner as before that act, was evidently made to favour the smuggling of bullion from those places by persons, as *Emerigon* observes, who could obtain no bills of lading or other evidence of their cargoes (a).

A policy, therefore, will not be void, though the trade be a fraud against the revenue laws of a foreign state, and even contrary to a *British* treaty.

And this doctrine has been carried so far, that an insurance upon a voyage, in which it was intended to defraud the revenue of a foreign state, was holden not to be illegal, though fictitious papers were fabricated for the purpose of facilitating this fraud (b). Nay, it has even been holden by a great and eminent judge, whose decisions are justly esteemed to be of the highest individual authority in questions of insurance, that even where the trade insured is to be carried on by *British* subjects, not

(a) See *Emerigon's* observations on this clause of the *English* statute, vol. I. p. 212. — (b) *R. Flanché v. Fletcher*, Doug. 238. inf. c. 8. s. 3.

only contrary to the laws of a foreign state, but contrary also to the express provisions of a treaty, to which *Great Britain* was a party; yet, if the insurer subscribe the policy, with full knowledge of the nature of the trade, the contract will bind him (a).

Thus: A ship was insured, "At and from *London* to *Pensacola* and *Manisbae* in the river *Mississippi*, with liberty to touch at *Portsmouth* and *Jamaica*."—The ship was employed in the usual trade in the *Mississippi*, and traded at *Little Manisbae*, in the island of *New Orleans* in the dominions of *Spain*. *Manisbae*, the place mentioned in the policy, was part of the continent of *North America*, on that side of the river, which, by the treaty of *Paris* in 1763, was surrendered to *Great Britain*, and is about 37 leagues higher up than *New Orleans*. The loss was occasioned by a seizure of the ship at *Little Manisbae* by the *Spanish* governor, as a reprisal for transgressions alleged to have been committed by a *British* ship in the *Lakes*.—In an action on the policy, it was contended on the part of the defendant, that this being an insurance on an illicit trade, the contract was void.—Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, said—"The first question is, whether this policy covers the trading on the *Mississippi*, before the ship's arrival at *Manisbae*. The trading at *Little Manisbae* is a delay of the voyage, and an increase of the risk. If the policy does not cover this part of the trading, then it is a deviation, and there is an end of the contract. It is very clear what the trade is. *Every trading with the subjects of Spain is illicit by the treaty of Paris*. The navigation is free to both countries, and the municipal laws of both countries remain (b). Though

Lever v. Fletcher
at N. P. after
Hil. 1780, Park
237.

Though the intention of the insured be to carry on a trade with the subjects of a foreign state, forbidden by the laws of that state; yet it will be lawful; and if known to the insurer, the policy will bind him.

(a) But though the policy may not be void for this cause, yet it has been holden that where a ship is seized for navigating contrary to the laws of another country, or for not paying customs, the insurer shall not be answerable. Per *Hutchin's Comr. Anon.* 2 *Vern.* 176.

(b) "But every treaty is a part of the private law of each of the countries which are parties to it, and is as binding on the subjects of each, as any part of their own municipal laws."—See the judgment of Sir *William Scott*, in the case of the *Enrom*, 2 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 6.

fuch

such trading be contrary to the laws of *Spain*, yet no country pays attention to the revenue laws of another. Therefore, *if the defendant had, with full knowledge that it was a smuggling trade with Spain, made the insurance, then it might be a fair contract between the parties (a).*—But the main question for consideration seems to be, whether this trading to *Little Manshae* was insured by the policy.” —The jury found for the defendant, it may be presumed, on the ground of deviation.

SECT. II.

Prohibited Commerce with the British Colonies.

An insurance upon any commerce carried on contrary to the laws in force in the *British colonies*, is void.

BUT though, according to the opinion of Lord *Mansfield*, the revenue laws of foreign countries are not to be regarded in *England*, yet, an insurance on goods which are meant to be imported into, or exported from, any of the dependencies of the crown of this realm, contrary to the laws in force in those places, would, I conceive, be void: For it would be inconsistent with the protection which the sovereign owes to the subordinate state, to encourage any commerce injurious to its interests, or to countenance any infraction of those laws, to which the king, as the head of the state, has given his sanction.

Hence it follows that no legal insurance can be made on any commerce carried on with any of the *British colonies*, in contravention of the laws made in this country for the regulation of the commerce with those colonies.

The general policy of the maritime states of *Europe* is nearly the same respecting their colonies, and has a double object.—The one to secure an exclusive market for the commodities of the mother country;—the other to secure to the mother country the exclusive disposal of the produce of the colonies. This policy gave birth to the celebrated *navigation act*, which had its origin in the

By the *navigation act*, no goods shall be imported into, or exported from, the *British plantations*, but in *British* or *plantation ships*.

(a) The question here was not whether the contract was fair, *as between the parties*; but whether a court of law in *England* ought to have lent its aid to give effect to an insurance made to protect a trade carried on, not only against the revenue laws of another country, but also against good faith

year

year 1650 (a) during the usurpation, and was continued after the restoration by the stat. 12 C. II. c. 18. § 1.; by which it is enacted,—‘ That no goods or commodities shall be imported into, or exported out of, any lands, islands, plantations, or territories belonging to his Majesty his heirs and successors, in *Asia, Africa, or America*, in any ships or vessels but such as belong to the people of *England, Ireland, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed*, or are of the built of, and belonging to, the said lands, islands, &c. and whereof the master and three-fourths of the mariners at least are *English*, under penalty of forfeiting the goods and ship.’—And, by § 4. ‘ No goods of foreign growth or manufacture shall be brought to *England, &c.* in such ships, so navigated, but from the places of their growth or manufacture, or from the ports where they are usually first shipped, under the like penalty.’—And, by § 18. ‘ No sugars, tobacco, cotton-wool, indigo, or dying wood, of the *English* plantations in *America, Asia, or Africa*, shall be carried from such plantations, to any land, island, territory, dominion, port or place, other than to such other *English* plantations, as belong to his Majesty, or to *England, Ireland, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed*, under pain of the like forfeiture.’—And by sect. 19. ‘ *English* ships, &c. shall give bond that any commodities loaded at any of the said plantations, shall be landed at some port of *England, Ireland,*’ &c.—And the stat. 7 & 8 W. & M. c. 22. § 2. enacts ‘ that such ships shall be wholly owned by the people of *England, Ireland*, or the colonies, and the masters and three-fourths of the mariners shall be of those places; except prize ships, navigated as aforesaid.’—The 4th and 5th articles of the union with *Scotland* (b) extends these privileges to *Scotland*; and the 6th article of the union with *Ireland* (c) regulates them with respect to that country.

No colonial produce shall be carried to any place but *England, &c.* or other plantations.

By 7 & 8 W. 3. c. 22. the master and three-fourths of the mariners must be *English*.

Extended to *Scotland* and *Ireland*.

(a) Scobell, 132.—(b) Vid. the articles of union with *Scotland*, 5 An. c. 8., 12 G. 2. c. 30., and 15 G. 2. c. 33.—

(c) Vid. the articles of union with *Ireland*, 39 and 40 G. 3. c. 67.

An insurance of goods from the *West Indies* to *Gibraltar* is void.

The word *plantation* in the above stat. 12 C. II. c. 18. § 18. has never been applied to any of the *British* dominions in *Europe*, but only to the colonies in the *West Indies* and *America*. Colonial produce, therefore, cannot be legally shipped in the *British West Indies* for *Gibraltar*, and consequently an insurance upon goods so shipped will be void (a).

The immense benefits which have resulted to this country from these wise regulations, have naturally inclined the government to watch, with great jealousy, any attempts to evade them. The following case will shew that the courts, too, are equally disposed to enforce them, according to their true spirit.

Chalmers v. Bell,
3 B. & Pul.
604.

A Swedish ship takes in part of her cargo at *Madras*, with which she sails for *Gottenburgh*. An insurance on this cargo is void, the goods shipped at *Madras* being exported from thence in contravention of the navigation laws.

An insurance was made on goods on board the ship *Resolution*, warranted Swedish ship and property, at and from the ship's loading port or ports in the *East Indies* to *Gottenburgh*.—In an action on this policy, it appeared that the *Resolution* was sent by the *Swedish Asiatic Company* in *October* 1795 to *India* upon a general trading voyage; that, in the prosecution of this adventure, she took in the greatest part of her cargo at *Tranquabar* and *Munilla*, and proceeded to *Madras*, where she obtained a further part of the cargo upon which the policy was effected; that the ship, with the goods shipped at *Madras*, being regularly cleared outwards at that port, she sailed on her homeward voyage, in which she was captured by a *French* privateer and condemned.—Upon this case it was objected on the part of the underwriters, that this insurance, being upon a trading in contravention of the above acts 12 C. II. c. 18. § 1. and 7 and 8 W. & M. c. 22. § 2., was void.—On the other side, it was alledged that the provisions of these acts, so far as they relate to the trade of foreigners with the *British* possessions in *India*, was repealed by the stat. 33 G. 3. c. 52. § 138, 139. which enables the servants of the *East India Company* to buy goods in *India*, and sell them there to the subjects of foreign states, and to act as the agents or factors of any foreign company or foreign merchant; and, that these provisions, though they do not in terms

(a) *Lubbock v. Potts*, 7 East 449.

suspend the operation of the navigation laws with respect to foreigners trading to *India*, plainly recognize a right in foreign merchants to carry on such trade.—But the court were of opinion that, though the stat. 33 G. III. authorized foreigners to *buy and sell* in *India*, it did not authorize them to *export* commodities in any manner different from that which was prescribed by the navigation laws; and therefore they determined that the policy was void, and that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover.

The vast profits arising from the trade to the *East Indies*, have always afforded a strong temptation to private adventurers to engage in a contraband commerce with those parts, notwithstanding the charter and the acts of parliament by which the monopoly of that trade has been, from time to time, secured to the *East India Company*. The act by which this was first effectually done, was the stat. 9 & 10 W. III. c. 44. And though this act has been frequently altered and partly repealed by subsequent statutes, yet it has never been wholly put an end to: On the contrary, any infringement of it is still illegal. And though such parts of it as inflicted *penalties*, have been repealed by the stat. 33 G. III. c. 52.; and though this last act has provided that no acts, or parts of acts, thereby repealed, shall be pleaded or set up in bar of any action, &c. yet the following case proves that it is competent to underwriters who have subscribed a policy on a ship trading to the *East Indies* in contravention of this act, to avail themselves of it in defence to an action on such policy.

The ship *Albemarle* was insured, ‘At and from *London* to *New South Wales*; and at and from thence to all ports and places in the *East Indies*, *Persia*, *China*, or elsewhere; and at and from thence until her safe arrival back at *London*; with liberty to touch, stay, and trade at any port or place whatsoever, as well on this, as on the other side of the *Cape of Good Hope*.’—In an action on this policy, to recover a loss by capture on the homeward voyage, it appeared that the plaintiffs being employed to convey convicts, stores, and provisions, to *New South Wales*, obtained from the directors

An insurance on a voyage to the *East Indies* in contravention of the 9 and 10 W. and M. c. 44. is void, though the penalties of that statute have been repealed.

Camden and others v. Anderson, 6 T. R. 723. 1 Bos. and Pul. 272.

A ship being employed to carry convicts, stores, &c. to *New South Wales*, the owners obtain a license from the *India company* to sail thither, and from thence to *Bombay*, there to purchase a

cargo of cotton, and return to *London*; but stipulate that no other trade shall be carried on. The owners, however, send articles not authorized by the licence, with directions to proceed to *Goa*, and sell them there, or at *Bombay*.—An insurance on this ship is void, being effected on a trade undertaken with a view to break in upon the Company's monopoly.

of the *India Company*, a licence for the ship for a voyage to *New South Wales*, &c.; and from thence to *Bombay*, there to purchase cotton, to be legally imported, and sold at the Company's sales in *London*; and that they covenanted, 'that the owner, master, or mariners, should not carry on, or be concerned in, any kind of trade in the East Indies, or elsewhere within the limits of the Company's charter, &c.; and that if they should carry on any such traffic, they should be considered as illicit traders, the goods forfeited, and the persons liable to the same penalties as unlicensed traders;' that the plaintiffs ordered the master, after the delivery of the convicts, &c. at *Port Jackson*, to proceed to *Goa*, and there dispose of, or send by other vessels to *Bombay* for sale, copper and other articles, not authorized by the licence of the company; that the ship sailed with the above unlicensed articles on board, and the plaintiffs wrote to their agent at *Bombay*, informing him of their instructions to the master; that the ship, pursuant to the orders of the plaintiffs, sailed from *Port Jackson* to *Goa*, where the master sold the licensed cargo, and then sailed to *Bombay*, from whence, on the 23d of *December* 1792, she sailed for *London*, and was captured in the course of the voyage; that all the above facts happened before, and the action was commenced after, the passing of the stat. 33 G. III. c. 52. and that the plaintiffs were *British* subjects resident in *England*; that this act continues to the company, for a further term, the possession of the *British* territories in *India*, together with their exclusive trade, under certain limitations. The 146th section repeals so much of the stat. 9 and 10 W. III. c. 44., and of many other acts (a), as inflicted any penalty or forfeiture for illicit trading to the *East Indies*. The 147th section provides, 'that this repeal shall not extend to any offence committed against any of the statutes thereby wholly or in part repealed, before the passing of the act.' The 150th section, "for obviating any doubts, how far, notwithstanding such repeal, contracts made, contrary to the restrictions contained in the said acts were

(a) *Vid.* the acts, thus repealed, enumerated in 6 T. R. 727. binding."

binding,"—enacts, 'That it shall not be lawful for any
' defendant in any action then depending, or thereafter
' to be brought, to plead or set up any act so repealed,
' in the whole or in part, in bar of such action; but
' that the plaintiff shall have the same remedy and judg-
' ment as if the said acts, or parts of acts, so repealed,
' had never been made.'—Upon this case it was al-
leged on the part of the defendant, that the 146th
section of this act, repealing so much of the former acts
as inflicted penalties for illicit trading to *India*, did
not extend to any of the provisions for granting and
securing the exclusive trade to the company; and that,
by several acts and parts of acts remaining unrepealed,
such exclusive right was reserved to them, and all others
prohibited from invading it; and the proviso in the
147th section, was relied on to shew that such repeal
should not extend to any offence committed against any
of the acts thereby wholly or in part repealed, before the
passing of the act. It was therefore insisted, that the
policy being effected to protect a trade, which was
meant to be carried on contrary to the spirit and intention
of the existing laws, was illegal and void; and that the
objection might be taken advantage of in this action, al-
though the right of suing for the former penalty was
taken away from any common informer.—On the part of
the plaintiffs it was replied, that, as all these transactions
happened before the passing of the stat. 33 G. III. c. 52.,
the illegality of them could not be taken advantage of in
this action, for the 146th section repealed all forfeitures
and penalties contained in the acts there enumerated
against such illicit trading; and the 147th section merely
saved the right of such objection, as to offences already
committed, *to the company themselves*. But that the 150th
section prevented any private subject from setting up any
of the repealed acts or clauses in bar of any action on
any contract made before, as a pretext that such contract
was made contrary to the prohibition contained therein.
—The court, on full consideration, held that the con-
struction insisted on by the defendant was the fair one;
and determined that the stat. 9 & 10 W. III. c. 44. was
still in force; that as the policy was effected in contra-
vention

vention of that act, by breaking in upon the monopoly of the company, it was void; and that the defendant was therefore entitled to judgment, which judgment was afterwards affirmed, upon writ of error in the *Exchequer Chamber* (a).

The Americans are by treaty permitted to trade to the British settlements in India.

But not to carry on any coasting trade.

By the treaty between *Great Britain* and the *United States of America*, concluded in 1795, and confirmed by the stat. 37 G. III. c. 97., it is agreed,—‘That the citizens of the *United States* shall be received into the ports and harbours of the *British* territories in the *East Indies*, and may freely carry on trade between the said territories and the *United States*, in all articles of which the exportation or importation to or from the said territories shall not be entirely prohibited.’—It then adds several regulations under which this trade may be carried on, one of which is,—‘That the vessels of the *United States* shall not carry on any part of the coasting trade of the said territories; but that, vessels going with their original cargoes from one port of discharge to another, are not to be considered as carrying on the coasting trade.’—In the following case it was determined that, under this treaty, it is not necessary that this trade should be carried on from *America* to the *British* settlements in the *East Indies* direct, but that it may be carried on circuitously by the way of *Europe*, and by a *British* subject naturalized in *America*.

Wilson v. Maryat, 8 T. R. 31.

An American ship, the property of A. and B. both British-born subjects, but naturalized in *America*, (A. before and B. who was Captain; after the declaration of independence) sails to *France* with a cargo of goods, there disposes of them, and with the proceeds purchases goods for *India*, then sails to *Madeira*,

Three insurances were effected, the first on the 29th of *February* 1796, for the use of *John Collet*, upon the *American* ship *Argonaut*, and cargo, “At and from *Bordeaux* to *Madeira* and the *East Indies*, and from thence to *America*; with liberty to touch, stay, and trade at all ports and places whatsoever on her outward and homeward voyages.” The second on the 28th of *May* 1796, for the use of *Collet*, on the same ship and goods, “at and from *Bordeaux* to the *East Indies*, with liberty to touch, call, and trade at all ports, places, or islands whatsoever, as well at the *Cape of Good Hope*, as on this and the other side of it, until her arrival at her port of discharge in *Bengal*.” This

(a) 1 Bos. & Pul. 272.

policy, by a memorandum, was declared to be on wines and brandies, warranted neutral. The *third*, on the 15th of *August* 1796, on account of *Collet* and one *Anthony Butler*, on goods, warranted *American*, on board the same ship, “At and from *Madeira* to her last port of discharge in *India*, with a like liberty to touch, stay, and trade.”—In an action brought on these three policies, the plaintiff declared as for a total loss on each, 1st, by seizure and detention by the King’s officers; and 2dly, by the perils of the sea.—The count upon the third policy stated the goods to have been shipped at *Madeira* on the 1st of *June* 1796.—Upon the trial, it appeared, That the ship was the joint property of *Collet* and *Butler*; that *Collet* on the 25th of *July* 1795, sailed in the ship as master, from *Philadelphia*, with a cargo of corn and flour, for *France*, with a view of proceeding from thence with the ship, after the disposal of her cargo, to *Madeira* and the *East Indies*, and from thence back to the *United States*; that before the ship’s departure from *Philadelphia*, *Butler* wrote to *Collet*, and, by way of assisting him to form a right judgment how to act, proposed three plans as probable to be accomplished; first, after his arrival in *France*, to get a freight to the *Isle of France*, to go from thence to *Bombay*, and to employ the ship in the country commerce between *India* and *China*, until she had gained sufficient to make a complete investment in *China* for *America*; secondly, to go from *France* to *London*, and there get a freight for the company’s settlements in *India*, and then to pursue the same course of trade, or to take a freight direct from *Bengal* for *America*, for *Hamburgh*, or other neutral ports; thirdly, to gain a credit in *London*, and go out to *Bombay* or *Bengal*, with a complete investment on their own account, to obtain a freight to *China*, and at length to bring a cargo from thence, or *Bengal*, back to *America* or *France*; that *Collet* arrived with the ship at *Brest*, and there sold the flour, then proceeded to *Bordeaux*, where he sold the rest of the cargo, and there purchased the goods mentioned in the second policy, and loaded them on his own account on board the ship, which, with the cargo, were

where she takes in the remainder of her cargo, consisting of *English* and *Portuguese* productions, and proceeds on her voyage to the *British* settlements in *India*, without any licence for the ship or the captain.—This voyage is legal, and the insurance on it valid; though the trade was not direct between *America* and *India*; and though, as far as related to the *British* goods, this was a trading from *Great Britain* to *India*, without a licence; and though *C.* was still a *British* subject.

there in safety on the 1st of May 1796;—that whilst the ship was at *Bordeaux*, *Collet* came to *London*, and having obtained a credit with *Wijan* (the plaintiff,) who purchased, on account of *Collet* and *Butler*, *British* goods, being the goods mentioned in the third policy; and which were shipped at *London*, on the account and risk of *Collet* and *Butler*, on board three *American* ships, and conveyed to *Madeira*, for the purpose of being there put on board the *Argonaut*, and of being carried therein, together with the goods shipped at *Bordeaux*, from *Madeira* to the *British* territories in the *East Indies*, and there traded with; that the *Argonaut* sailed to *Madeira*, where she took those goods on board, together with some *Portuguese* wines, for the purpose of proceeding with her whole cargo to the *British* territories in the *East Indies*, and of trading with them there, neither *Collet* or the ship being licensed by the *East India* company to sail or trade there; that the ship having sailed from *Madeira* for the *East Indies*, was, with her cargo, on the 2d of *August* 1796, at *Symon's Bay*, near the *Cape of Good Hope*, seized and detained by the *English* admiral, on suspicion of being an illicit trader; that both *Butler* and *Collet* were natural-born *British* subjects, and both become citizens of the *United States*, and domiciled there, the former before, the latter after, the declaration of independence; that on the 16th of *February* 1793, the usual proclamation at the beginning of every war was published here, forbidding all mariners, &c. natural-born subjects of this country, entering or continuing in the service of foreign states, or serving in any foreign vessel, without the King's licence; and that *Collet* had not obtained any such licence; that the plaintiff, who was a *British* subject, resident at *London*, knew that the *Argonaut* was destined for the *British* territories in the *East Indies*, and that the goods were intended to be carried thither for the purposes of trade therein.—Upon this case it was objected, on the part of the defendant, 1st. That, under the 13th article of the treaty, the *circuitous commerce*, which was the subject of the insurances, was not permissible, that article only allowing of a *direct intercourse* between the *United States* and the *British* settlements in *India*: which was plainly

plainly indicated by the word *between*; 2dly. That, by the 14th article, the trade between *America* and the King's dominions in *Europe*, is to be subject to the laws of the respective countries; and by the prior existing laws of *Great Britain*, all persons, as well foreigners as natives, except the *East India* company, are prohibited from trading from *Great Britain* to the *East Indies*; and that as the *Argonaut* was to take in goods at *Madeira*, sent from *Great Britain*, to be carried to the *British* settlements in *India*, this was, in effect, a trading from *Great Britain* to the *East Indies*, to which the *American* treaty only afforded a fraudulent colour; 3dly. That, admitting such a circuitous voyage from *America* to *India*, by the way of *Europe*, to be warranted by the treaty, still this voyage, undertaken with that view, being commenced before the ratifications of the treaty were exchanged (a), was illegal, and no part of an illegal voyage can be insured; but, if it should be considered only as a voyage from *Bourdeaux*, and so commencing after the ratification of the treaty, then it would not be within the 13th article, as not being a trading between *America* and the *East Indies*, in any sense; 4thly. That, as *Collet* was born under the King's allegiance, and not being a citizen of the *United States* at the time of the declaration of their independence, he could only be considered as a *British* subject, and as such, incapacitated by the navigation act, stat. 12 C. II. c. 18., from being master of an *American* vessel, and prohibited by the acts for regulating the trade to the *East Indies* from trading thither, except under the orders, or by the licence of the *East India* company.—But the court, upon great consideration, overruled all these objections, and determined that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon*, in delivering their opinion, said,—“Three objections have been raised on the part of the defendant. I will dispose of that first which was last in argument, namely, That *Collet*, the captain and part-owner of the ship, was an *Englishman* by birth, and was not, therefore, a citizen of *America*, within the mean-

A natural-born subject of *Great Britain* may become a citizen of the *United States of America* for the purposes of commerce, and then be entitled to all the advantages of an American

(a) This, by the 28th article, was the period of its commencement.

under this treaty; and his coming to this country for a temporary purpose does not deprive him of those advantages.

ing of the treaty between this country and *America*; but we are clearly of opinion that there is no weight in this objection. *Collet* is a citizen of this country by birth, so that he cannot throw off his allegiance to it; he is also a citizen of *America*, for the purposes of commerce, having been adopted as a citizen there; and his being a natural-born subject here, cannot deprive him of the advantages of being a citizen of that country. As to the construction of the 13th article of the treaty, it was contended that the intercourse between *America* and the *East Indies* must be immediate and direct: But, on comparing this with the other articles of the treaty, we are also of opinion that this objection is unfounded. That the party insured might have come from *America* to other countries in *Europe*, might have bought goods, carried them back to *America*, and from thence to the *East Indies*, seemed to be admitted. Then, in point of reason, why may not that which may be done indirectly, be done directly (a), and on the fair construction of the words of this article, we think that this objection cannot prevail. The remaining objection is, that the voyage insured was a part of a voyage, the whole of which, supposing it to be one integral voyage, was not legal in its inception; and that, if there be any infirmity in any part of an integral voyage, the whole, for this purpose, becomes illegal. But this argument is too refined, as applied to this case. Before the commencement of this voyage, there was a rumour, that a treaty between the two countries was in agitation, and this person came to *England*, probably with a view of carrying on the voyage to the *East Indies* under the treaty. However, in deciding this case, we must look to the facts. Now it is not

If an integral voyage be, in any respect, illegal in its commencement, no insurance can be legally effected on any part of it, though such part, taken by itself, would be legal.

(a) Perhaps, in answer to this question, it might be alledged that the *British* government, knowing the disadvantage with which the *Americans* must carry *European* commodities directly from *America* to *India*, meant that the trade between them and the *British* settlements in *India* should be immediate and direct, lest the *Americans*, by taking *Europe* in their way to *India*, might too easily rival the company in the *Indian* markets.

stated,

stated, that the continuation of the voyage to the *British* settlements in the *East Indies*, was the voyage that was at all events to be performed, when the voyage began in *America*. For though different plans had been suggested by *Butler*, in his letter, for the continuance of the voyage, it appears only that *Collet*, when he sailed from *America*, intended to go to the *East Indies*, but without saying to that part which belongs to *Great Britain*. As far as respected the *Americans*, every other part was *mare liberum*; and though before the treaty, the insured could not have gone to any of our ports in the *East Indies*, without being guilty of an infraction of our law, he might have gone to any other port in the *East Indies*. Every thing, therefore, relating to these different plans, though a fair subject of investigation and discussion, may now be laid out of our consideration; as it does not appear what precise voyage the parties had in contemplation at the inception of the voyage from *America*. Then, if the voyage insured be not infected by what was done in *America*, it was a legal voyage. The ship originally sailed from *Philadelphia* to *Brest*, and then to *Bourdeaux*, which she might legally do; and, before she left the latter place, the treaty between this country and *America* was ratified. It then appears, that in *May* 1796, she sailed to *Madeira*, where she took in other goods, “for the purpose of proceeding with the whole cargo to the *British* territories in the *East Indies*,” which then she might well do, under the treaty which had before that time been ratified. Then it does not appear that *Collet* had any intention of going to any of our settlements in the *East Indies*, until after the ratification of the treaty; and, though I admit, that if there had been any infirmity in any part of the integral voyage, it would have made the whole illegal, so that the insured could not recover upon a policy on any part of it; yet it not appearing that in fact, there was any illegality in any part of this voyage, we are of opinion that this objection also fails.”—This judgment was afterwards affirmed upon a writ of error in the *Exchequer Chamber*, on which occasion the opinion of

of the court was delivered by Lord C. J. *Eyre* on all the points of the case, in a very able and elaborate judgment (a).

If a foreign ship trading to the *British* settlements in *India*, under a treaty, violate any of the regulations of such treaty, this will avoid any policy on her.

But a policy on a legal cargo is not vitiated by the ship having previously acted in contravention of the treaty.

Bird v. Appleton,
8 T. R. 562.

An *American* ship at *Bombay* takes in goods for *China* contrary to the *American* treaty. With the proceeds she purchases a cargo at *Canton*, for *Hamburg*.—A policy on the ship at and from *Canton* to *Hamburg* is void, because the illegal cargo was on board part of the time the ship remained at *Canton*; and this insurance will not protect the ship on her voyage to *Hamburg* with another cargo.—But a policy on the goods from *Canton* to *Hamburg* is good, though purchased with the

But an *American* ship trading to the *British* settlements in *India*, pursuant to the treaty already mentioned (b), must conform strictly to the regulations prescribed by such treaty; otherwise she will be subject, not only to the penalties prescribed by law for any violation of the company's monopoly, but also render void every policy of insurance made in this country which attaches at any time during the illicit commerce. And an illegal cargo on board but for an hour after a policy attaches, will avoid that policy and discharge the underwriters from all subsequent responsibility. But a legal cargo may be insured, though purchased with the proceeds of an illegal one; and though the ship had, by her previous illegal commerce, been subjected to seizure and confiscation. These points will be found determined, upon full consideration, in the following case (c).

An insurance was made on goods on board the *Confederacy*, an *American* ship, "At and from *Canton* in *China*,
" to *Hamburg* or *Copenhagen*, with liberty to touch, stay,
" and trade, at all ports and places whatsoever, particularly at a port in the *Channel*."—This policy was effected for the benefit of *Leffingwell* and another. There was also a policy on the ship for the same voyage. In an action on these policies, it appeared that the ship was *American* built, the property of *American* subjects, commanded by an *American* captain, and furnished with the requisite *French* passport. She sailed with a cargo from *London*, for *Bombay*, where she arrived in *June* 1796, and there disposed of her cargo; and the captain having, by a licence obtained from the governor and council, taken on board a cargo of cotton for *Canton*, she sailed for that

(a) 1 *Bos. & Pul.* 430.—(b) *Sup.* 68.—(c) *Vid. Merck v. Abel*, *inf.* ch. 15. s. 1. in which it was determined that a policy upon a cargo of goods exported from *Calcutta* in a foreign ship was void by the navigation act, though this commerce was permitted by government, and soon after sanctioned by act of parliament,

place,

place, where she arrived in *October* 1796. There her cargo was disposed of, and the goods mentioned in the first policy were purchased, partly with the proceeds of the cargo from *Bombay*, and shipped for *Hamburgh*. The ship sailed for *Hamburgh* in *January* 1797, and was captured by the *French*, carried into *Nantz*, and there condemned on the ground of her having violated some of the *French* ordinances.—By an article of the treaty between this country and the United States of *America*, referred to in the stat. 37 G. III. c. 97., it is stipulated that the citizens of the United States shall be permitted to trade with the *British* territories in the *East Indies*; but it is expressly agreed, ‘that the vessels of the United States shall not carry any of the articles exported by them from the said British territories to any port or place, except to some port or place in *America*, where the same shall be unladen; and that the permission granted by this article is not to extend to allow the vessels of the United States to carry on any part of the coasting trade of the said *British* territories.’ The voyage from *London* to *Canton*, and that from *Canton* to *Europe*, were two distinct voyages.—In the argument, the policy on the ship was abandoned by the plaintiff’s counsel, on this ground, that as this policy, which was “at and from *Canton*,” attached from the time the ship arrived there, including the period of time while the cotton taken in at *Bombay*, in contravention of the above article of the treaty, was still on board; and as the immediate voyage insured could not be severed, the whole must be deemed an illegal adventure.—On the policy on the goods, several objections were made on the part of the defendant: 1st, That the goods insured were purchased with the proceeds of the illegal cargo procured at *Bombay* (it being admitted that the governor’s license to purchase it was illegal), and that such an adventure was contaminated by such an antecedent illegal traffic. 2^{dly}, That the voyage from *Bombay* to *Canton* was only a part of a larger voyage, out and home, from *London* to *Canton*, and from *Canton* to *Europe*; and that as the ship, in the course of the voyage, traded at *Bombay*, contrary to the treaty between this country

proceeds of the illegal cargo.—The insurance on the voyage from *Canton* was legal, though the ship had been liable to seizure in the voyage from *Bombay* to *Canton*.

and

and the *United States*, by not returning directly from *Bombay* to *America*, the whole voyage was illegal. 3dly, That the ship was seizable, for a violation of the navigation act, in a prior part of the voyage from *Bombay* to *Canton*, and consequently that the goods insured were not put on board a proper ship, such as the insured impliedly undertook to provide; and that the right of seizure continued at least during the time that the ship was on the high seas, and until her return home. 4thly, That the sentence of condemnation by the tribunal at *Nantz* negatived the ship's being an *American*.—But the court determined, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover on the policy on the goods.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“It is now very properly admitted, that the policy on the *ship* must be abandoned, because during part of the time that the parties intended that the policy should attach, namely, while the ship was at *Canton*, there was something illegal in the transaction. As to the policy on the *goods*, if the objection, that the contract is illegal, because the goods were purchased with the proceeds of a former illegal cargo, were well founded, it would go to an alarming extent.—In deciding on a claim made on a policy of insurance, it would be necessary to examine and scrutinize the past conduct of the insured, in order to see whether or not, by their former transactions in life, they had illegally acquired the funds with which the particular goods insured were purchased. But we cannot enter into considerations of that kind; we must confine ourselves to the immediate transaction before us. And the voyage homeward from *Canton*, being found to be a *separate and distinct* voyage from that to *Canton*, the homeward voyage, therefore, cannot be affected by the former outward voyage. After the greatest attention which I have been able to bestow on the subject, I adhere to the opinion that we gave in the case of *Pollard v. Bell* (a), in which it was established as a proposition, that the courts of admiralty are to proceed on the known *jus gentium*, or on the treaties between particular states;

(a) *Inf. c. 9. l. 5.*

that such treaties do not alter the *jus gentium* with respect to the rest of the world; but, as between those particular states, they are considered as engrafted on the *jus gentium*; and that one state has no authority, by any ordinance of its own, to vary the general law of nations, as to other states. But the ground of the sentence of the *French* court of Admiralty, in this case, is the not conforming to a *French* ordinance in a matter which is neither required by the law of nations, or by the treaty between *France* and *America*; and it is found by the verdict that all the requisites of that treaty were complied with." Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“With regard to the first objection, made on the part of the defendant, in such a case as the present, we cannot inquire into the means by which the merchant gains the money that is afterwards laid out in the purchase of goods: Had it been obtained by robbery on the highway, and invested in the purchase of a cargo, I do not know why that cargo may not be legally insured. In order to render the insurance illegal, the illegality should exist during the course of the voyage insured; nor do I think that the next objection, that the plaintiffs cannot recover, because the ship was liable to seizure, is well founded: Here the illegality commenced by the captain taking on board a cargo at *Bombay*, in order to carry it to *Canton* for sale. But the doctrine relied upon by the defendant is perfectly new, that the insured cannot recover on the policy, because the ship, in a prior voyage, had been guilty of some transgression, for which she was liable to be seized. That is not a risk within the policy. If the ship had been seized for this cause during the voyage insured, the underwriters would not have been liable; they are only liable for risks in the course of the voyage insured. Then the only remaining question is, whether or not it were decided by the foreign sentence, that the ship was not an *American*. The attempt on the part of the defendant here, is not so much to dispute the authority, of the case of *Pollard v. Bell*, as its application to the case before us. However, I am of opinion, that on the whole, we must consider that the foundation of this sentence of

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condemnation, was the violation of *French* ordinances only, and consequently that the case of *Pollard v. Bell* is a direct authority for the present."

SECT. III.

Vid. sup. ch. 2.
L. 1.

Contraband of War.

The obligations
of neutrality.

IN time of war, it is the duty of those who are not engaged in it, and who profess to be neutral, to observe an exact impartiality between the contending parties, and to afford no assistance to either, to the prejudice of the other. *Pacem utrique parti quod medios deceat amicos, optent, bello se non interponant* (a). To what extent, and in what articles, neutrals may trade with the subjects of a belligerent power, is a question upon which there has always been a great difference of opinion; some contending for the rigour of war, and others for a freedom of commerce, which it is difficult to reconcile with any just notions of neutrality, but which, by the law of nations, as they say, any neutral state may carry on with any belligerent. It must be owned, that in the decision of this question, much frequently depends on the power of the party, whether belligerent or neutral, who contends for the one principle or the other. Breaches of neutrality are often suffered to pass unnoticed, because the party who suffers by them, finds it necessary to dissemble his resentment, lest he should draw new enemies on himself; and neutrals often submit to great outrages rather than involve themselves in war. There are, however, certain principles, which, though occasionally, violated, are universally respected as public law. That law has pretty accurately defined what shall be deemed contraband of war.

What articles
are contraband.

Some articles of commerce, are of use only in war; these are the *belli instrumenta*, viz. arms, ammunition, and other warlike stores; some are of no use in war, as those that serve only for pleasure, and the uses of common life;

(a) *Liv. lib. 35. c. 48. Vid. Vattel, Droit des Gens, liv. 3. ch. 7. n. 103, 104.*

and some are useful both in peace and war, as money, provisions, horses, ships, naval stores, &c.—The first of these, namely, warlike stores, when sent to either party, are always deemed contraband by the other; and by the law of nations, are subject to capture and confiscation, in whatever vessel they are found; this species of commerce with an enemy, being indisputably inconsistent with neutrality (*a*).—*Locennius* extends the prohibition even to provisions (*b*). But, the law of nations, as at present understood, seems to confine that restriction to places besieged or blockaded (*c*).

Not only arms, powder, ball, and other ammunition, but also horses and furniture, pitch, tar, sails, hemp and cordage, masts, yards, and all other necessities for the building or equipment of ships, are generally considered as contraband, by the law of nations (*d*). It is to be observed, however, that the liability of articles of this latter description to capture and confiscation, depends sometimes on the place of their destination. For instance, tallow is contraband, when destined to a port of mere hostile equipment, such as *Brest*; not so, if it be destined to a commercial port, though it be also a port of naval equipment; but *sail cloth* is universally contraband, even on a destination to ports of mere mercantile naval equipment (*e*). *Pitch, tar, hemp, &c.* are generally contraband: But there is in the practice of the court of admiralty, a relaxation with respect to such articles, which

(*a*) *In hostium est partibus qui ad bellum necessaria hosti administrat.* Grot. lib. 3. c. 1. f. 5.—(*b*) *De jure maritimo*, lib. 1. c. 4. n. 9.—(*c*) *Valin*, tit. *Des prises*, art. 11. p. 264. The pensionary *De Witt*, in his letter of the 4th of January 1654, agrees that it would be contrary to the law of nations to restrain neutral nations from carrying corn and provisions to the enemy's country; but he says that they may be restrained from carrying thither any of the necessities for equipping ships of war. But Queen *Elizabeth*, in 1599, would not permit the *Danes* or *Poles* to carry provisions to *Spain*, declaring that “by the rights of War, it was permitted to reduce an enemy by famine, to seek for peace.” Vid. Grot. lib. 3. c. 1. f. 5. *Vattel Droit des Gens*, liv. 3. c. 7. n. 112.—(*d*) *Vattel*, liv. 3. c. 7. n. 112.—(*e*) So determined in the case of the *Neptunus*, 3 Rob. Adm. Rep. 103.

allows the carrying of them, provided they are the produce of the exporting country. But this relaxation is understood with a condition, that these articles may be brought in, not for confiscation, unless where any fraud appears, but for pre-emption (*a*). Formerly, by the law of nations, the carrying of contraband of war worked a forfeiture of the ship: But in modern practice, except where the contraband articles belong to the owner of the vessel, or where the case is attended with particular circumstances of aggravation, the penalty has been mitigated to a forfeiture of freight and expences (*b*). —What articles shall or shall not be deemed contraband, as between particular states, are often regulated and ascertained by particular treaties.

Commerce with
places besieged.

Beside these restrictions, there is another by which all commerce is absolutely prohibited with a town or place besieged, invested, or even blockaded; for the besiegers have, by the law of nations, a right to prevent all communication with the place invested, and to treat as an enemy, whoever attempts to enter, or carry any thing into it, without permission (*c*). And egress is as much a breach of a blockade as ingress, if it be done fraudulently (*d*).

But the power which undertakes a blockade, ought immediately to notify this to all neutral states. The effect of such a notification is, to include all the individuals of those states; because it is presumed that those states communicate the information to their subjects, whose interests they are bound to protect: Therefore no neutral subject, after such notification, can be allowed to aver

(*a*) Vid. the case of the *Sarah Christina*, 1 Rob. Adm. Rep. 237. — (*b*) Vid. 1 Rob. Adm. Rep. 288. *Bynkershoek* thus vindicates the rigour of the ancient law: *Publicabam quoque naves amicas si scientibus dominis contrabanda ad hostes deferrent; et, nisi pacta impediant, omnino publicanda sunt, quia earum domini operantur rei illicita.* Quæst. jur. priv. lib. 1. [ch. 14. — (*c*) *Vattel*, liv. 3. c. 7. n. 117. *Grot.* l. 3. c. 1. s. 5. *Bynk. quest. jur. pub.* l. 1. c. 11. — (*d*) Vid. *Bynk.* ib. l. 3. c. 4. and 1 Rob. Adm. Rep. 88: 151. 171.

ignorance of such blockade.—There is this difference between a blockade thus regularly notified, and a blockade *de facto*, that, in the former, the act of failing to the blockaded place amounts to a breach of the blockade, and subjects the neutral ship to capture and confiscation; whereas, in the case of a blockade *de facto*, the ignorance of the party may be received as an excuse for failing to the place blockaded (a).

But it would be impossible to prevent the transport of contraband goods, if neutral vessels might not be searched at sea; and hence has arisen the right of search assumed by all belligerent powers, though formerly resisted by such states as were powerful enough to protect their subjects in their refusal. But it seems now to be settled, that a neutral ship which should refuse to submit to such search, or to produce her papers, when required by any belligerent, would be subject to condemnation for that cause alone (b). To prevent, however, the inconvenience, vexation, and abuse arising from an unrestrained licence to search all neutral ships, the manner of doing it is usually regulated by the different maritime states, in their treaties of navigation and commerce with each other; and credit is usually given to the bills of lading, invoices, clearances, and other papers on board, unless fraud appear, or there be a reasonable ground to suspect it. We shall have occasion to consider this subject more at large hereafter (c).

The right of visiting and searching neutrals.

The sending of any of the articles denominated *belli instrumenta*, or any other succour, by a *British* subject in time of war, to the King's enemies, amounts to the offence of high treason (d). It is needless to add, that the insurance of such criminal traffic by a *British* subject, would be void. And though the sending of such goods to the King's enemies, by the subjects of a neutral power, would, in them, be no offence against the law of *England*;

The insurance of contraband of war is void.

(a) See the judgments of Sir *William Scott*, in the cases of breach of blockade in 2 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 109. 111. 1 6. 124. 128. 131. &c.—(b) *Vattel*, liv. 3. ch. 7. n. 114. *Vain*, tit. *des prises*, art. 11. p. 270.—(c) *Vid. inf.* c. 9. l. 6.—(d) *Vid.* 4 *Bl. Com.* 82, 83.

yet the insurance of them, in this country, would be, not only void, but highly criminal in every person concerned in it.

An insurance on any trade, carried on in contravention of an embargo laid by the King, is void.

Another restriction on commerce arises sometimes from embargoes. The King, by his prerogative, has the power of issuing proclamations, which, when they are grounded upon, or are meant to enforce, the existing laws of the realm, have a binding force (a). In time of war, when the safety of the nation is concerned, the King may, by his proclamation, lay an embargo on all shipping, and shut up all or any of the ports in his dominions, either generally, or for the particular purpose of stopping the export of provisions, or other things (b); and any trade carried on, in contravention of such proclamation, is illegal, and consequently an insurance upon such trade, even when carried on by a neutral, is void.

*Delmads v. Met-
teux*, B. R. M.
25 G. 3. Park
234.

A neutral ship obtains a cargo of provisions in Ireland, after an embargo laid, and takes clearances for a neutral country, but sails for an enemy's port, and is taken:—This, being an illegal traffic, the policy is void.

Thus: After an embargo had been laid on all ships laden, or to be laden, in *Ireland*, with any sort of provisions, an insurance was made on the *Bella Juditta*, a Venetian ship, the property of a subject of Venice, "At and from London to the Grenades, with liberty to touch at Cork and Madeira to load."—The ship sailed from London to Cork, and there took in a cargo of provisions, the property of French subjects, the enemies of Great Britain; and having obtained clearances and bills of lading for Madeira, she sailed to that island, where she was neither to unload any part of her cargo, nor to take any goods on board; but where she took clearances and bills of lading for St. Thomas's, a Danish island, whither she was not destined, but only to Grenada, then in the possession of the French, and on her voyage thither was captured by an English man of war, the cargo condemned by the Vice Admiralty Court of Barbadoes, as enemy's property, and the ship ordered to be restored, but without freight or damages for the capture, because she was engaged in an illicit commerce.—An action was brought on the policy, to recover for the loss of freight and damages oc-

(a) 3 Inst. 162.—(b) Vid. 1 Bl. Com. 270. 4 Mod. 177. 179.

casioned by the capture.—But the court held that this voyage was a breach of the embargo; that it was a fraud to go to an enemy's port, under colour of going to a neutral port; and, consequently, that the insurance was illegal and void.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“Is not this a breach of the embargo? The King, in time of war, has an undoubted right to lay an embargo: In time of peace it is another question. Every power lays them on. If the ship had only been carrying goods of an enemy on a voyage lawful for her to perform, she might have been entitled to freight. But here the sentence says she shall not: And why? Because she has done a wrong thing. It is a fraud; for under colour of a neutral port, she goes to an enemy's port. She breaks an embargo. What the consequence of that is, has not yet been settled: But, to break an embargo is undoubtedly a criminal act; and wherever a man makes an illegal contract, this court will not lend him their assistance to enforce it (a).”

So, when all intercourse with the *American* colonies was prohibited by act of parliament, the following case will shew that a commerce carried on with those places, during the continuance of this prohibition, was illegal; and that an insurance on the trade is void, even though it had been countenanced by government, and encouraged by the King's officers.

An insurance was made on goods on board the ship *Venus*, lost or not lost; “At and from *London* to *New York*; warranted to depart with convoy from the *Channel*, “for the voyage.”—The ship was cleared out for *Halifax* and *New York*. She had provisions on board, which she had a licence to carry to *New York*, under a proviso in the stat. 16 G. III. c. 5. § 1. which prohibited all com-

If all intercourse with a *British* colony be prohibited, an insurance on goods intended to be carried thither is illegal and void.

Johnston v. Sutton, Doug. 254.
S. P. Vanharthals v. Halhed,
M. 21 G. 3.
2 East 487.

(a) There seems to be some inaccuracy in the report of this case. It states a *general* embargo on all ships laden with provisions in *Ireland*; and yet it states that the *Bella Juditta* took in a loading of provisions at *Cork*, from whence she took clearance and bills of lading for *Madeira*, as if that might have been legally done. It is probable that the embargo was confined to provisions meant to be exported to any of the possessions of the enemy.

merce with the province of *New York*, among others, and confiscated all ships and their cargoes which should be found trading, or going to, or coming from, trading with them. But there was a proviso in the act, (§ 2.) excepting 'ships laden with provisions for the use of his Majesty's fleets or garrisons, or the inhabitants of any town possessed by his Majesty's troops, provided the master should produce a licence, specifying the voyage, &c. and the quantity and species of provisions; but that goods not licensed found on board such ships should be forfeited.'—But one half of the cargo, including the goods insured, was not licensed, and was not calculated for the *Halifax* market, but for *New York*. There had been a proclamation by Sir *William Howe*, the commander in chief, to allow the entry of unlicensed goods at *New York*; and though there were bonds usually given at the custom-house here, by which the captain engaged to carry the goods to *Halifax*, those bonds were afterwards cancelled, on producing a certificate from an officer appointed for that purpose at *New York*, declaring that they were landed there. The commander in chief had no authority under the act of parliament to issue such proclamation, or to permit the exportation of unlicensed goods.—The ship was taken in her passage to *New York* by an *American* privateer.—In an action on the policy, the court determined that as this trade was expressly prohibited, the insurance was void, and the plaintiff could not recover.—Lord *Mansfield* said;—"The whole of the plaintiff's case goes on an established practice, directly against an act of parliament. If the insurer did not know that the goods were unlicensed, the objection is fair as between the parties. If he did, he would not deserve to be favoured. But, however that may be, it was illegal to send goods to *New York*, and, *in pari delicto, potior est conditio defendentis*."

Gist v. Mason,
1 T. R. 84.

An insurance cannot be made on provisions, sent in a neutral ship to a *British* colony, while in the hands of the enemy.

In the case of *Gist v. Mason*, which we have already noticed (a), the insurance was upon a cargo of provisions sent from *Ireland* to some of our *West India* islands, which had been captured by the *French* in the *American* war, where the insured had property, and which were constantly

(a) Sup. 36.

stantly supplied with provisions, by means of neutral vessels, though they were in the hands of the enemy.—In an action by an underwriter against the insured to recover the premium, the illegality of the commerce was objected.—Lord *Mansfield* being of opinion that the policy was not illegal on the face of it, directed a verdict for the plaintiff; and the court afterwards refused to grant a new trial to let the defendant in, to shew by evidence that the insurance was upon provisions supplied to the enemy.

Sect. IV.

Commerce with the Enemy.

BY the common law of *England*, no *British* subject can legally trade with an enemy, without the King's licence. The reason is, that war puts every individual of the respective belligerent governments into a state of mutual hostility (a); and there is no such thing as a war for arms, and peace for commerce. In that state, all treaties, civil contracts, and rights of property, are put an end to. Trading, therefore, which supposes the existence of civil relations, the rights of property, and the obligation of contracts, is necessarily contradictory to a state of war. Besides, it is criminal in a subject to aid and comfort the enemy; and trading not only affords that aid in the most effectual manner, by enriching the enemy's

No *British* subject can trade with the enemy without a licence.

(a) *Quand le conducteur de l'état, le souverain, declare la guerre à une autre souverain, on entend que la nation entiere declare la guerre à une autre nation. Car le souverain represente la nation, et agit au nom de la société entiere, et les nations n'ont à faire les unes aux autres qu'en corps dans leur qualité de nations. Ces deux nations sont donc ennemis; et tous les sujets de l'un sont ennemis de tous les sujets de l'autre. L'usage est ici conforme aux principes. Vattel, liv. 3. c. 5. n. 79.—Ex natura belli commercii inter hostes cessare non est dubitandum. Quamvis nulla specialis sit commerciorum prohibitio, ipso tamen jure belli commercia esse vetita, ipsæ indictiones bellorum satis declarant, &c. Bynk. Quest. jur. priv. lib. 1. c. 3.*

country, and increasing their resources, but also facilitates the means of carrying on a traiterous correspondence, which may more than counterbalance any advantage likely to accrue from such trading (a). This being so, it follows that every contract of insurance against the risks attendant on such trading, must be illegal.

Goods bought of the enemy cannot be insured.

Till lately, however, as we had occasion to observe in the last chapter, the general opinion, supported by constant practice, was, that in *England*, not merely the goods of *British* subjects purchased of the enemy, but even the goods of the enemy themselves, might be legally insured, and the legislature has frequently found it expedient, in times of war, to interpose its authority to restrain such insurances (b). The cases of *Brandon v. Nesbitt*, and *Bristow v. Towers* (c) have gone the length, however, of disabling an alien enemy, or any other on his behalf, from maintaining an action on a policy on the property of such alien enemy. But the question still remained, whether a *British* subject might insure goods purchased by him in the enemy's country, when the two following cases arising out of the same transaction, drew that question into a full discussion, which has terminated in setting it finally at rest, upon the sure foundation of law.

Bell v. Gilson,
1 Bos. & Pul.
345.

Goods the produce of *Holland* are purchased there during hostilities between *Great Britain* and *Holland* for a *British* subject, and shipped for *England*.—Such goods may be legally insured in *England*.

The first of these cases was an insurance on goods on board the *Elizabeth*, from *Rotterdam* to *Hull*.—In an action on this policy, brought in the court of *Common Pleas*, it appeared that the *Elizabeth* was a neutral ship, captured by the *French*, and the goods lost; that the plaintiffs had on board a quantity of madder purchased for them, and on their account, at *Rotterdam*, by their agent, a *British* subject resident there; that at the time the goods were purchased and shipped, and also at the time the insurance was effected, open hostilities existed between *Great Britain* and *Holland*; that during all that

(a) Vid. the arguments and authorities in support of this doctrine, in the very learned and eloquent judgment of Sir *William Scott*, in the case of the *Hoop*, 1 Rob. Adm. Rep. 201.—
(b) Vid. sup. 30.—(c) Sup. 36, 37.

Ch. III. § 4.] *Commerce with the Enemy.*

time, it was the constant practice to enter goods at the Custom-House here, direct from *Holland*, and this was never impeded, though the officer knew from whence they came, as he always enquired whether they were alien's goods, on account of the alien duty."—Upon this case it was insisted, on the part of the defendant, that this insurance, was illegal, because a *British* subject could not lawfully carry on any commerce with the King's enemies.—But the court (a) held that the insurance was legal.

The other case, which was on the same policy, was also tried in the court of Common Pleas, and there was a verdict for the plaintiffs. A bill of exceptions was tendered on the part of the underwriter, and allowed, upon which the same facts appeared as in the former case.—The cause was removed by writ of error into the *King's Bench*, and after two arguments, first by common lawyers, and again by civilians, the court, after time taken for consideration, were unanimously of opinion that it was illegal for a *British* subject to trade with an enemy, without the King's licence, and that the insured, therefore, could not recover on the policy.

The following case will shew, that even if a *British* subject obtain the King's licence to trade with the enemy, he must strictly conform to the terms and conditions annexed to such licence; otherwise the trading will be illegal.

Two policies were effected on goods the property of the plaintiffs, who were *British* subjects, upon a voyage from *London* to *Rotterdam* or *Amsterdam*, with or without clearances to or from a neutral port; the one being upon sugar, on board the *Vlerland* and the *Lydia*, the other on coffee, sugar, and tobacco, on board the same ship *Lydia*, both being neutral ships.—In an action on these policies, it appeared that on the 20th of *December* 1797, the plaintiffs obtained an order of council to export 100 hogheads of tobacco in the *Lydia*,

Potts v. Bell.
8 T. R. 548.

But it is now settled that such trading is illegal, and the insurance upon it void.

The terms of the king's licence to trade with the enemy must be strictly pursued.

Vandyke v. Whitmore,
1 East 475.

A licence to trade with the enemy provides that the party shall give bond for the due exportation of the goods to the places proposed; and they are exported without such bond:—such exportation is illegal—If such licence be granted for a limited time, it is not sufficient that

(a) Mr. Justice Buller, Mr. Justice Heath, and Mr. Justice Roke:—Lord C. J. Eyre was absent.

the goods be
shipped within
the time; if the
ship sail after the
time.

from *London to Calais or elsewhere*, as circumstances might require; with a proviso, (amongst others), that this licence should remain in force *for two months and no longer*; that the plaintiffs shipped 30 hogtheads of tobacco, part of the goods insured, entered them at the custom-house for *Calais*, made oath that they were to be exported to that place, and gave bond, according to the stat. 29 G. III. c. 68. (the tobacco act), to land this tobacco there; that the rest of the goods insured were shipped for *Rotterdam*, under an order of council of the 10th of *January* 1798; that on the 7th of *April* 1798, the *Lydia* was cleared out for *Calais, Rotterdam, and Embden*, and on the 14th sailed direct for *Rotterdam*; that the *Vlerland* arrived safe at *Rotterdam*, but the *Lydia* was captured off the mouth of the *Maese* by a *French* privateer; that by an order of council, dated the 3d of *September* 1796, reciting the statutes 33 G. III. c. 27 and the 34 G. III. c. 9. & 79. a licence was granted, according to the authority given by those acts, to export any of the goods mentioned in those acts to *Holland, the Austrian Netherlands, or Italy*; provided such goods were exported in neutral ships, and under the usual conditions and regulations, and that security should be given, by bond, that such goods should be exported to the places proposed, and a certificate produced within six months of their having been landed at that place; and that the proof of compliance with the conditions of the order should be on the persons claiming the benefit of it; that this order was by an order of the 10th of *January* 1798, continued to the 25th of *June* 1798, which was subsequent to the capture of the *Lydia*.—Upon this case the court determined that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon*, in delivering the opinion of the court said;—"The plaintiffs obtained the order of council of the 20th of *December* 1797, for the purpose of shipping the tobacco and other goods therein mentioned for *Calais*. But that licence will not affect the decision of this case; because it was confined to *the sending, supplying, and delivering*, in the *Lydia*, the goods specified, within two months, (that is from the 20th of *December* 1797), and the ship did not fail

sail till the 7th of *April* 1798. Therefore, whatever might have been the intention of proceeding to *Calais* after going to *Rotterdam*, the licence having expired before the voyage commenced, the exportation of the goods could not be protected by it. In this view of the case it becomes unnecessary for us to give any opinion upon the operation of the tobacco act. The question is, then, narrowed to the construction of the order of council of the 3d of *September* 1795, continued beyond the period in question. Though the King may, at common law, licence a trading with the enemy generally, yet he may also qualify his licence; in which case the party seeking to protect himself under such licence, must conform to the requisitions of it. Now the order of council of the 3d of *September*, licensing the trading to the *United Provinces* is on this express condition, that bond be given, in the form prescribed, that the goods shall be exported to the places proposed, and to no other; and that a certificate shall be produced within six months, that the goods have been landed; which condition has not been complied with, no such bond having been given. The plaintiffs therefore cannot protect themselves by that licence; consequently the voyage was illegal, and cannot be insured."

If an underwriter would object that the policy was on a trading with the enemy, he must do so in the first instance; for if there be a verdict against him, the court will not grant a new trial to enable him to prove the fact of a trading with the enemy, in order to avoid the contract (a).

This objection, must be taken, if at all, in the first instance.

SECT. V.

The Wages and Effects of the Master and Mariners.

IT seems to be the policy of all maritime states to use every precaution to prevent the desertion of the seamen, to interest them in the preservation of the ship, and to

Seamen are not to be paid more than a moiety of their wages abroad.

(a) Vid. *Gist v. Mason*, sup. 36.

incite them to the most vigorous exertions in times of danger. With this view the stat. 8 G. I. c. 27. § 7. was made, to restrain masters and owners of ships from paying the seamen, beyond the seas, above one moiety of the wages due to them, at the time of such payment, before the ship's return to *Great Britain or Ireland*.^{*}

Nor can the seamen insure any thing in nature of wages.

Webster v. De Taft, 7 T. R. 357.

A mate of a slave ship, who is to have some privilege slaves, cannot insure them, being in the nature of wages; and therefore he cannot recover against his agent for negligence in not procuring such insurance to be effected.

The same wise policy has also prohibited the insurance of seamen's wages in all maritime countries; and by the law of *England* (a), a seaman is not permitted to insure any thing in nature of wages.

As where an action was brought against an agent for neglecting to make an insurance according to instructions, and it appeared at the trial, that the plaintiff had been hired to go as mate in a ship from the coast of *Africa* to the *Havannah*, for which he was to receive 5*l.* per month, as wages, and three privilege slaves free of expence. The ship was lost on her voyage, and the plaintiff proved that he thereby sustained a loss of 150*l.*, reckoning 39*l.* 5*s.* for his chest and clothes, and the rest for the value of the slaves.—It was objected that the plaintiff could not recover the value of the slaves, they being in the nature of wages, and, therefore, not the subject of a legal insurance.—A verdict for the plaintiff was taken, however, for 150*l.*, with liberty to the defendant to move to reduce the damages to 39*l.* 5*s.*, the value of the chest and clothes.—Upon this motion being made, the court were clearly of opinion, that the slaves were not the proper subject of an insurance; and that though, in point of fact, these slaves were frequently insured, and the loss always paid by the underwriters, without disputing the question;—yet the court were of opinion, that as the objection was made, the plaintiff could not recover in this action more than he could have recovered in an action against the underwriters. The verdict was therefore reduced to 39*l.* 5*s.*

The following case reported by *Emerigon* (b) seems to have been decided upon sound principles.—A seaman,

(a) Vid. 1 Mag. 18, Adm. in *Carter v. Boehm*, 3 Bur. 1912. 1 Bl. 594.—(b) *Emerig.* tom 1. p. 236,

who was engaged for a voyage, while the ship was in a foreign harbour, threatened to leave her, unless his wages already earned were secured to him. The captain gave him a note by which he undertook to pay him his wages then due to him at all events. The ship was afterwards taken.—The seaman, on his return to *France*, sued the captain on his undertaking. The captain alledged that this undertaking was against law, and that he only gave it to prevent the seaman from deserting the ship.—This was considered as a just and proper answer to the seaman's demand, and his suit was dismissed with costs.

But although the seamen are not permitted to insure their wages, as such; yet, in most foreign countries, they are allowed to insure such goods as they purchase with the wages they receive abroad; and there seems to be no reason why they should not have the same indulgence in this country, as the restraint is meant only to apply to such wages as are not due till the voyage is entirely finished (a).

But they may insure goods purchased abroad with their wages)

Though the policy of the law tends to restrain all insurances whereby the interest of the seamen in the care and preservation of the ship may be lessened, yet our law concurs with that of *France* in allowing the captain to insure goods which he has on board, or his share in the ship, if he be a part owner (b).—Upon this principle it has been determined, that the governor of a fort in a foreign settlement, in time of war, may insure the fort for a period of time, against its being taken by a foreign enemy (c).

The captain may insure his goods on board, or his share in the ship.

Upon the same principle, a governor may insure a fort against capture by an enemy.

Sect. VI.

Freight.

BY the law of *France*, always watchful to prevent the contract of insurance from ever becoming lucrative to

In *France* the insurance of freight is prohibited, except freight already earned.

(a) Vid. *Emerig.* tom 1. p. 235.—(b) *Emerig.* tom 1. p. 236.—(c) Per Lord *Mansfield* in *Carter v. Boehm*, 3 *Bur.* 1905. 1 *Bl.* 593. *Inf.* c. 11. s. 2.

the insured, the insurance of freight, not actually earned, is prohibited. One reason assigned for this is, that the master may be thereby rendered more careful in the preservation of the ship and cargo; another is, that freight is of the nature of profit, and, till it be acquired, the owner of the ship has not an insurable interest in it. But, by a declaration of the *French* government in 1779, freight, *actually earned*, was permitted to be insured; and it was provided, that in case of loss, it should not be included in the abandonment of the ship, unless it were expressly so stipulated in the policy. But freight, though actually earned, can in *France* be insured only by the *freighter*, where he agrees to pay the freight at all events. It is, in that case, an expence which he must lose, if the ship should be lost without completing her voyage, and therefore a fair subject of insurance (a).

In *England*, the freight as well as the ship may be insured.

But the mere insurance of a ship, let out on freight, would afford the owner but an inadequate protection, where the loss of freight follows that of the ship. In *England*, therefore, the freight, as well as the ship, may be legally insured. And this is conformable to the practice in *Italy* (b).

But the insured can only recover for a loss of freight, where the risk on freight has been commenced.

To entitle the owner, however, to recover for a loss, on a policy on freight, it must appear that, before the loss, the owner's right to freight had commenced; that is, that the ship had actually begun to earn freight, for till then the risk on freight does not commence. Therefore, if the cargo be ready to be put on board, but the ship is lost while preparing for the voyage, the insured shall not be entitled to recover for the loss of freight (c). But if part of the cargo be shipped, there is then an inception of the risk on freight, and the insured, upon a valued policy, shall recover for the whole freight (d). So, if the ship sail on her voyage to the port where she is

(a) Vid. *Le Guidon*, ch. 15. art. 1. *Valin*, art. 15. p. 58. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 36. *Emerig.* tom. 1. 225. — (b) *Roccus*, not. 96. — (c) Per *Lee*, C. J. in *Tonge v. Watt*, inf. c. 7. s. 6. — (d) Per Lord *Kenyon*, in *Montgomery v. Eggington*, inf. c. 7. s. 6

to take in her cargo, this shall be a commencement of the risk on the freight, and if the ship be lost before her arrival at her port of loading, the insurer on the freight is liable (a). See this subject more fully treated, post, ch. 7. § 6.

Sect. VII.

Slaves.

THERE is something extremely offensive to humanity in the idea of any part of the human species becoming property, and a subject of commerce, capable of being bought and sold like beasts of burthen. And yet it is to be lamented that this traffic has existed in all ages, even amongst the most polished nations of the world, and where moral refinements were the most highly cultivated.

Slaves formerly
insured as goods.

For upwards of two centuries, a commerce in negro slaves has been carried on by the several maritime states of *Europe*, for the purpose of supplying their colonies in *America* and the *West Indies* with labourers. The unfortunate objects of this cruel traffic were formerly too much considered as mere merchandize. The merchant insured them as such, and, with us, till lately, he was protected by the policy against any loss sustained in the voyage, even by mortality, if it could, by any construction, be attributed to any of the perils mentioned in the policy. At length, however, the *British* legislature, roused by the calls of humanity, has interposed; and though it was not thought wise at once to abolish this trade altogether, it was subjected to many wholesome restraints, not only in the manner of carrying it on, but also in the insurance of it. The object of these regulations was to interest the persons concerned in the transporting of slaves from *Africa* to the *West Indies*, in their health and preservation.—At length, however, the two houses of parliament in the month of *June* 1806, seve-

How this trade
was regulated.

Now totally
abolished by
47 G. 3. c. 36.

(a) *R. Thompson v. Taylor*, inf. c. 7. s. 6.

tally resolved that they would, with all practicable expedition, take effectual measures for the abolition of this trade; and in pursuance of these resolutions, the stat. 47 G. III. c. 36. was passed in the next session of parliament, totally abolishing the *African* slave trade from the 1st of *May* 1807, and subjecting all persons concerned in the continuance of it, after that time, to certain penalties and forfeitures. And § 5 prohibits and declares unlawful, all insurances upon any trading in slaves, and imposes a penalty of 100*l.* and treble the premium, upon any of his Majesty's subjects who shall subscribe, effect, or make any such unlawful insurances. But by § 6, the act shall not extend to a trading in slaves exported from *Africa* in ships cleared out before the 1st of *May* 1807, and landed in the *West Indies* on or before the 1st of *March* 1808.

Sect. VIII.

Profit.

How insurable
abroad.

MUCH doubt has arisen upon the question, whether the profit expected to arise upon maritime commerce be a proper subject of insurance.

In estimating a total loss upon goods insured by an open policy, it has been the uniform practice, to add to the prime cost of the goods, all duties and expences, together with the premium of insurance; and the amount of these has always been holden to be a full indemnity. Nor is there any instance of profit being avowedly added, even where the loss has happened at the port of delivery. For instance, if 1000*l.* be insured on goods, which are lost in the port of delivery, before they are landed; and it appear that the invoice price, together with all charges and the premium of insurance, amount to 800*l.*; but the goods, at the time of the loss, had they been safely landed, would have been worth 1000*l.* the sum insured; yet the loss would be estimated at no more than 800*l.* On the other hand, supposing the goods would have
fetched

fetched no more than 600*l*. Still the insured would have been entitled to the whole 800*l*. So that, whether the goods arrive at a rising or a falling market, the loss to be paid by the underwriter is the same.—And upon this ground it has been repeatedly holden that the underwriters shall not be involved in the rise or fall of the market (a).

Two reasons may be assigned for this;—*first*, that it is impolitic to allow the insured so completely to cover himself by the policy, as to divest himself of all interest in the preservation of the effects insured;—and *secondly*, the difficulty of ascertaining the true amount of the loss, where profit, which is so precarious, is to be taken into the account.

But if a policy on the *goods* will, in no instance, afford protection to the insured against the loss of profit, may it not reasonably be asked, how the profit itself can be separately insured?

It may, perhaps, be contended that, unless profit may legally be insured, the merchant cannot in any manner, secure to himself a full indemnity against the losses to which he is exposed by the perils of the sea. But this is not sufficient to countervail the objections to this species of insurance.—Besides, it is the policy of most commercial countries, to oblige the merchant himself to run some part of the risk, even on the ship and goods; and his running, himself, the risk of profit, may sometimes be attended with salutary consequences. The law of *France* not only prohibits the insurance of profit, but restrains the merchant from insuring more than nine-tenths of his interest; thus obliging him to run the risk, not only of all profit, but of one-tenth, also, of his goods.

Yet, in *Italy* the merchant is permitted to insure the profit he expects to derive from the goods he exports (b). *Roccus*, inquiring how a loss upon goods is to be estimated, thus expresses himself;—‘*Distingue,—aut merces fuerunt estimatae, pro certâ quantitate, tempore contractus affecura-*

(a) Vid. inf. ch. 14. f. 2.—(b) *Targa* c. 42. n. 5. *Sav-
terna*, part 3. n. 40. *Roccus* h. t. n. 31.

tionis ; et tunc non sumus in dubio, quin dicta quantitas
 estimata solvenda est ; aut asscuratio fuit facta pro aspor-
 tandis mercibus salvis Romam, ET TUNC ESTIMATIO
 INSPICIENDA EST ROMÆ. Aut asscuratio fuit facta
 SIMPLICITER, de solvendo estimationem seu valorem mer-
 cium in casu periculi, si navis perierit, et tunc inspic-
 debet tempus obligationis, et prout tunc valebant, debet fieri
 estimatio, et sic damnum quod asscuratus patitur in amis-
 sione rei, non LUCRUM faciendum consideratur (a).—

Hence it would seem that there were in *Italy*, when *Roccus* wrote, two forms of insurance; the one where the goods were valued, and then, in case of loss, the amount of the valuation was to be paid; the other, where the insurer contracted for the safe delivery of the goods at the port of destination, in which case the loss was estimated at the price the goods would have fetched had they arrived safe at the port of delivery.—In *Portugal*, also, profit is deemed a proper subject of insurance (b).—The *French* ordinance of the marine (c), on the contrary, adopting the rule of the *Roman* law, ‘*Detrimenti non lucri, fit præstatio* (d),’ prohibits the insurance of profit: Nothing, indeed, in *France*, seems to be deemed a proper subject of insurance, but the ship, and such effects on board as are the absolute property of the insured, at the commencement of the risk. Profit, therefore, being precarious, and depending upon the uncertain event of future traffic, does not come within that description (e).—In *Holland*, no insurance upon expected profit can be legally made (f); but this restriction, it would seem, is by positive law; notwithstanding which, the practice of insuring expected profit has so generally obtained, that, in a case reported by *Bynkershoek* (g), it appears that, upon an insurance on profit, a majority of the judges of the

(a) *Roccus* h. t. n. 3.—(b) *Santerna*, p. 3. n. 40, 41.—
 (c) h. t. art. 15.—(d) *Dig.* lib. 14. tit. 2. *de lege Rhodia, de jactu*, l. 4.—Vid. *Bynk. quest. jur. priv. lib. 4. c. 5.* in which he cites a decision of the senate of *Rotterdam*, to shew that *lucrum quod speratur asscurari non posse*.—(e) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 232. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 36. 149.—(f) *Bynk. quest. jur. priv. lib. 4. c. 5.*—(g) *Ubi sup.*

tribunal determined in favour of the insured; and those who opposed that decision, rested their opinion on positive law, and not on the ground that such contracts are inconsistent with the nature of insurance. It cannot, however, be contended that, because a particular practice has been prohibited by positive law, therefore it was legal before. The famous ordinance of the marine is a positive law; but it defines and enacts those very principles that were before received and admitted as maritime law in every state in *Europe*, with only a few modifications suited to the particular views of the *French* government. Our stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. certainly does not prove that, before the passing of that act, gaming insurances were legal contracts at common law (a).

In *England* there is no positive law prohibiting the insurance of profit, unless it be deemed to come within the restrictions of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37.; but, by the following determinations, it seems to be now settled that the insurance of expected profit is legal in this country.

The first of these was an insurance, 'Upon any kind of goods on board the ship *Providence*, at and from *Surinam* to *Quebec*. The said goods for so much as concerns the insured, by agreement are valued at 1000*l.*, being the profits expected to arise on the cargo of the above ship, in the event of her safe arrival at *Quebec*; and, in case of loss, the insurers agree to pay the same, without any other voucher than the policy.'

Grant v. Parkinson, M 22 G. 3.
B. R. M S.

Profit expected to arise from a cargo of goods may be insured.

The interest proved at the trial was the profit, to the amount of the sum insured, which would have arisen to the plaintiff, upon a cargo of molasses, he having a contract with government to supply the army in *Canada* with spruce beer.—It was objected at the trial that profit was in its nature too precarious and uncertain to be the subject matter of an insurance; and that this, therefore, was a wager policy, within the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37.—This point being reserved for the opinion of the court, it was determined in favour of the plaintiff.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“On the construction of the act, a valued

(a) Vid. inf. c. 4. l. 2.

policy is not void. Since the act, it is incumbent on the plaintiff to prove *some interest*; but it is not necessary for him to go into the whole value. The insurance being on the profits of a cargo belonging to a man having a contract to supply the army, if it arrived safe, the profits were pretty certain. This cannot be distinguished from a valued policy; and there is no pretence to say that it was a wagering one. The meaning of the valuation in the policy was, not to evade the act, but to avoid the difficulty of going into the exact amount of the *quantum*."

One principal ground of this decision was, that this was a valued policy, in which, provided the object of the contract be not a wager, any qualified property in the goods insured, or any reasonable expectation of profit or advantage to arise therefrom, will amount to an insurable interest. But this supposes that that which cannot be insured in an open policy, may be insured in a valued one; a proposition which will not readily be admitted.—Had the policy been an open one, it would have been extremely difficult to form any just estimate of the loss. The insured might have calculated it upon the probable gain which he might have made of the molasses, when employed in the making of spruce beer, and charged to government according to his contract. The underwriter might think, and perhaps with more reason, that the difference between the invoice price and charges, and the market price at the port of delivery at the time of the loss, was the only fair measure of profit for which the insurer ought to be liable. But, it is a settled rule, that when there has been a partial loss, there is no difference between a valued and an open policy. Supposing, then, that the goods from which the profit is expected to arise, should, after sustaining a partial loss, come to a losing market; it would be impossible in that case to shew that the insured had sustained any loss within the policy; because, had the goods come safe to their port of destination, the insured could have gained no profit upon the sale of them.

The next case on this subject was an insurance on the ship *Jonah*, 'from *Barbadoes* to the coast of *Africa*, during her stay and trade there, and back to the *West Indies*.' The policy was declared to be *on profits*, valued at 2000*l*.—The declaration stated that the insured was *interested in profits to arise from the sale of the cargo*, to the amount of the sum insured, and stated a total loss by capture.—Upon the trial, it appeared—"That, after an insurance had been effected on the ship and cargo, sufficient to cover their full value and the amount of the premiums, the insurance in question was made; that the ship having arrived at her port of discharge on the coast of *Africa*, and when part of her cargo was sold and thirty slaves purchased, she was captured by the *French*, but was afterwards given up to one *Hewitt*, for the purpose of conveying *English* prisoners to a *British* port; that she afterwards arrived at *Sierra Leone* with the remainder of her cargo, the thirty slaves, and a number of prisoners, where *Hewitt* and part of the crew deserted her, and her original captain refusing to take charge of her, the governor gave the command of her to one *Scott*, who sold the thirty slaves and the rest of the cargo, and then sailed for *Barbadoes* with the prisoners; and that, upon her arrival at *Barbadoes*, the court of admiralty there adjudged to *Scott* and the crew, an eighth of the proceeds of the ship, and of the cargo that was on board at the time he took possession of her."—The court, after two arguments, determined that the plaintiff was entitled to recover as for a total loss.—Mr. Justice *Lawrence*, delivered the opinion of the court with great learning and ingenuity.—After expatiating on the reasonableness of permitting the insurance of expected profit, and using several arguments to shew that it is not inconsistent with the nature of the contract of insurance, cited several foreign authorities to prove that it is practised in most of the other maritime states, where it is not prohibited by positive law. He then said,—“It has been objected to this sort of insurance that the subject, having no physical existence, cannot be insured. This objection would hold against insuring freight, and bottomry, and respondentia interest.

Barelay v. Cousins, 2 East 544

The profits expected upon a cargo of goods to be employed in the *African* trade, may be insured.

rests (a). It was also objected that the goods might be going to a losing market, in which case the insured would gain by the loss of his 'goods': But if that were the case, it would be evidence on *non assumpsit*, as it would prove that the plaintiff was not damnified, *as to profit*, by the loss of the goods; or that, at the time of the loss, he had no interest *in the thing insured*. It was further objected that in the case of an insurance on profit, there can be no average or abandonment: But that objection does not hold in the present case; for if there be only a partial loss, the insured will only be liable to pay for the expected profits on the goods lost, and there may be an abandonment of the profits, by abandoning the goods from whence the profits are to arise (b). As to general average, there would be no difficulty in the case of a valued policy: And, in the case of an open policy, the difficulty would be no greater than in ascertaining the damages, in case of loss; the impossibility of doing which, in *every case*, will not prove that an insurance can be made on profits in *no case*."

In delivering the opinion of the court in the foregoing case, Mr. Justice *Lawrence* read a note of the case of *Henrickson v. Margetson*, which was determined in the

(a) Bottomry and respondentia interests differ essentially from that of expected profit. A lender upon bottomry is liable to general average, and entitled to the benefit of salvage. He may insure to the amount of the sum lent, but not the interest reserved, which is, in truth, profit; and the borrower can insure only to the amount of the residue of the value of the thing hypothecated. Vid. inf. book 2. ch. 3, 4.—(b) It is not at all probable that an insurance would ever be made upon profits merely, without insuring the goods from which such profits are expected to arise; and then, upon a total loss, the abandonment must be, not to the underwriters upon profit, but to those upon the goods, who will of course be entitled to the entire proceeds of the goods so abandoned, however these proceeds may exceed the prime cost or value in the policy. Vid. inf. ch. 13. s. 4. The case of *Thompson v. Rowcroft*, 4 East. 34., shews how difficult it is to reconcile the claims of the underwriters upon freight with those of the underwriters upon the ship, in the case of an abandonment.

Court of King's Bench in *Mich.* 1776.—It was an insurance on indigo, valued at 9,600*l.*, at and from *Bourdeaux* to *Hamburgh*, with a memorandum at the foot of the policy, that it was on *imaginary profit*, at three and a half *per cent.*; and, in case of loss, to pay without further proof of interest than the policy.—There was an averment in the declaration that this ship did not belong to his Majesty or any of his subjects, and that the imaginary profit mentioned in the memorandum meant *the profit which the said cargo of indigo would produce, upon the sale thereof at Hamburgh, if the same should arrive there in safety*, and that the plaintiff was interested in the cargo of indigo, and the imaginary profit thereof.—Upon the trial it appeared that the ship was totally lost off *Scilly*; but that all the cargo, except one barrel of indigo, was saved and carried to *Hamburgh* in another vessel, at the expence of the underwriters.—There was a verdict for the plaintiff.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the question was, whether, the ship being lost, but the cargo carried to *Hamburgh* in another ship, the insured could recover as for a total loss of the profits.—The court determined in favour of the plaintiff, being of opinion that the underwriters were not at liberty to send the cargo to *Hamburgh* at what time and in what ship they pleased.—Lord *Mansfield* said:—"The meaning of the policy seems to be, that the ship and cargo shall arrive at the destined port, and is on the profit of that particular ship and cargo: But the market varies and may depend on twenty-four hours sooner or later; so that, unless the very ship and cargo arrive, the profit may fail, and the insurance is lost."

It is observable that this was the case of a *foreign ship*, with a stipulation that, in case of loss, the underwriters should pay, "*without further proof of interest than the policy*;" and there was an express averment in the declaration that the ship was foreign, to take the case out of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. This shews that those who framed the declaration entertained apprehensions, at least, that if this had been the case of a *British* ship, it might have been holden to be a wager within that act. And Lord *Mansfield* seems in some measure to have treated it as a

Henrickson v. Magelsoen, 2 East 549. n.

Insurance of imaginary profit of a cargo of goods on board a foreign ship. The ship being totally lost, the cargo is carried in another vessel to the port of delivery, at the expence of the underwriters.—Held, that this was a total loss.

wager : For though the memorandum in the policy, and the averment in the declaration, both shew that the insurance was upon the profit expected upon the cargo only ; yet his lordship says that *the insurance was lost* by the non-arrival of the *very ship and cargo*. This alone can account for its being considered as a total loss ; otherwise, as the cargo was carried to *Hamburgh* at the expence of the underwriters, it could only have amounted to a partial loss : For, as to the variation of the market, that may be favourable or unfavourable ; and if this argument were to hold good in all cases, the consequence would be that, wherever the goods insured are, from whatever necessity, shifted from one ship to another, it will be a total loss, though they be delivered safe at the place of destination, which is contrary to a well known principle of the law of insurance (a).

But the insured must shew that he would have made profit, if the loss had not happened.

Hedgfen v. Glover, 6 East, 316.

The profits upon a cargo of slaves are insured in a valued policy. Part of the slaves are lost by shipwreck, and the rest arrive at a market.—The plaintiff cannot recover as for a total loss ; nor even for a partial loss, without shewing that if all had come to market, profit would have been made of them.

But in the last case that has occurred on this subject it was determined that the plaintiff cannot recover on a policy on expected profit, unless it be made appear that the insured would have made a profit by the adventure, if no loss had happened.

In that case the plaintiff, at *Liverpool*, having received advice that his ship, the *Monta Lambert*, had arrived at *St. Vincent's* with a cargo of slaves from the coast of *Africa*, effected a policy in *London* for 400l: 'at and from *St. Vincent's* to the ship's last port of discharge, final sale and delivery, in all or any of the *West India* and *Bahama* islands, *America*, and the *Havannah* ;' and the insurance was declared to be 'On profits valued at the sum insured ; And in case of loss, no other proof of interest to be required than that policy.'—The ship sailed from *St. Vincent's* for the *Bahamas*, and in this voyage was wrecked at the *Bahamas*, and the ship and many of the slaves were totally lost. The remainder of the slaves were carried in other vessels to the *Havannah*, and there sold by the plaintiff ; but their produce did not give a profit upon the whole adventure.—Upon this case it was contended

(a) Vid. inf. ch. 5. s. 2. and particularly the case of *Plantamour v. Staples* there.

on the part of the defendant, that this policy was void by the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. which prohibits insurances, ' *interest or no interest, or without further proof of interest than the policy.*'—Mr. Justice Lawrence observed that the stipulation, as to the proof of interest, was an independent part of the agreement of the parties, which might be void and yet the other part of the contract of insurance itself might be good; that though the latter stipulation was void, as being an agreement to preclude that proof which the law has made necessary; yet that the contract itself might be good if proved by legal evidence.—It was then further objected that the plaintiff had declared as for a total loss, and it appeared that the greater part of the slaves had arrived safe at a market and had been disposed of, and that there might have been a profit upon the part of the voyage which was insured, though a loss upon the whole adventure, which was from *Liverpool* to *Africa*, and from thence to the *West Indies*; but the profits were only insured from *St. Vincent's* (after the ship's arrival there) to her last port of discharge.—The court held that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover.—The reasons assigned for this decision were, 1st. That there could not be a total loss, where a great part of the cargo reached a market; and, 2dly. that as the plaintiff had not shewn that any profit would have been made, even if no shipwreck had happened, and all the slaves had arrived safe at a market, he could not recover at all.

This case may, perhaps, be considered as an example of the difficulties likely to result from permitting the insurance of profit.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Interest of the insured in the Subject Matter of the Insurance.

HAVING, in the two foregoing chapters, inquired what persons may be parties to the contract of insurance, and what may the subject matter of it; we will now proceed to examine the property, or *interest*, as it is usually termed, which the insured must have in the thing insured, to give validity to the contract. This may be done under the following heads;

- I. *Insurable Interest;*
- II. *Wager Policies;*
- III. *Re-insurance;*
- IV. *Double Insurance.*

SECT. I.

What shall amount to an Insurable Interest.

INSURANCE is said to be, ‘*a contract of indemnity from loss or damage, arising upon an uncertain event.*’ The object of insurance, strictly speaking, is, not to make a *positive gain*, but to avert a *possible loss*. A man cannot properly be said to be *indemnified* against a loss which can never happen to him. There cannot be an indemnity without a loss, nor a loss without an interest. A policy, therefore, without interest, is not an insurance, but only a mere wager. Of such wagers we will treat at large in the next section. At present we will consider what interest in the thing insured, the law of *England* deems sufficient to give validity to the contract.

It

It would be extremely difficult to give any accurate definition of insurable interest. The interests of commerce, and the various and complicated rights which different persons may have in the same thing, require that not only those who have an *absolute* property in ships and goods, but those, also, who have a *qualified* property therein, may be at liberty to insure them; and this principle has been carried so far, that if a merchant abroad, in order to secure the payment of a debt due to his correspondent in *England*, mortgage to him his interest in certain goods ~~and~~ freight; the correspondent, after the mortgage becomes absolute, may insure the *legal* interest on his own account, or the *equitable* interest on account of the mortgagor (a).

Qualified property.

Different persons having each a qualified property in goods, may insure them to the full value.

As, where *A.* a merchant at *Petersburgh*, wrote to *B.* his correspondent in *London*, to whom he was indebted, informing him that he had shipped a quantity of goods for *London*, consigned to him, and would send him the bill of lading, and desired him to insure them. *B.* immediately did this; and *A.* having shipped the goods, instead of sending the bill of lading to *B.*, indorsed it, for a valuable consideration, to *C.* at *Petersburgh*, who transmitted it to *D.* his correspondent in *London*, with directions to insure, which he also did; but apprised the underwriters of the former insurances made on the same goods by *B.*—In this case it was determined, upon great consideration, that each had an insurable interest.

Godin v. Lond. Assur. 1 Bur. 489.
1 Bl. 103. inf.
§. 4

The following case will further illustrate the same principle.

An insurance was made on goods, 'At and from *Jamaica* to *London*;' and it was stated at the head of the policy, to be, 'on account of *Robert Kerr*, Esq.'—The plaintiffs were merchants in *London*, and the general consignees of *Kerr*, a planter in *Jamaica*; and were in the constant habit of getting his goods insured. On the 23d of *December* 1782, they received advice from him by letter, dated the 18th of *October*, of his having shipped ~~ten~~ hogheads of sugar on board the *Devonshire*, with

Hibbert and others v. Carter,
1 T. R. 745.

The indorsement of a bill of lading to a creditor, is payment *pro tanto*, and conveys *prima facie*, the whole property in the goods from the time of delivery. But if it be only to bind the net proceeds, the indorser has still an insurable interest.

(a) Per *Abbott, J.* in *Smith v. Laſcelles*, 2 T. R. 188.

general directions to insure whatever goods were shipped by him.—The insurance in question was immediately effected; but between the time when the order was sent, and the effecting of the policy, *Kerr* indorsed the bill of lading to one *Dellprat*, to whom he was indebted, and informed the plaintiffs of this by letter. The bills of lading, as they originally stood, expressed the sugars to be shipped on the account and risk of “*the shipper*,” with directions to deliver to his order, or that of his assigns. The indorsement was in these terms:—“Deliver the
 “above sugars to Mr. *J. Hodgson*, for account of *S. Dell-*
 “*prat, Robert Kerr.*”—The ship was lost.—In an action on the policy, the plaintiffs rested their case on the above facts.—The defendant objected that *Kerr*, having assigned the bill of lading before the insurance was actually effected, the averment in the declaration that these sugars had been insured *on his account*, was not true; for he had not then any insurable interest in him, the entire property having passed out of him by the assignment of the bill of lading, which operated in this instance as a payment.—Mr. Justice *Buller*, who tried the cause, being of this opinion, would have nonsuited the plaintiffs: But the defendant having neglected to pay the premium into court, they took a verdict for that sum.—They moved, however, for a new trial, insisting that the verdict ought to have been for the *whole* sum insured.—But the court determined that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover for any *loss* in this case, being all clearly of opinion, that where a bill of lading is taken by a creditor as a security for his debt, on his own account, the whole property passes by the delivery, and is to be considered as a satisfaction of the debt, *pro tanto*: But, that the parties are always at liberty to vary from the general rule, by entering into any particular agreement between themselves; which, however, must be shewn, in order to take advantage of it.—Afterwards the motion was renewed, by leave of the Court, on an affidavit stating the particular transaction between the parties; viz. That *Kerr* had no intention to pass the whole *property*, by the indorsement of the bill of lading; but only to bind the consignment; for which purpose he had ordered the plaintiffs to pay the
 net

net proceeds to *Dellprat*; and that since that time, *Kerr's* executors had accounted to *Dellprat* for the amount of the sugars that had been lost, a demand having been made on them for that purpose. Upon these new facts, a new trial was granted without opposition (a).

It is said that in a case where the interest was declared to be, "*on the commissions of the insured, as consignee of the cargo, valued at 1500l.*" Lord *Kenyon* expressed a very strong opinion that this was a good insurable interest (b). In the case of *Grant v. Parkinson* (c), it was determined that a reasonable expectation of profit, though it be not a vested property, is an insurable interest. Upon the authority of that case, it has since been determined, that the possession of the things insured, and a reasonable expectation of a future interest therein, though depending on the pleasure of the crown, is an insurable interest. Of this nature is the interest which the captor acquires in a prize regularly taken in war. From the moment that the victor hoists his flag on board the conquered ship, he has acquired a qualified property in her which he may insure (d). For though the King is, in contemplation of law, the captor, and the property of every prize immediately vests in him; yet the practice of bestowing all prizes taken from the enemy upon the officers and men, who are the persons immediately concerned in the capture, is so constant and uniform, that the law will consider the expectation, founded upon this practice, as equivalent to a vested interest.

A reasonable expectation of profit, or a well-founded expectation of a future interest in the thing insured, is an insurable interest.

(a) Vid. *Caldwell v. Ball*, 1 T. R. 205.—(b) *Flint v. Le Mesurier*, at N. P. after *Hil. 1796*, *Park* 268.—(c) *Sup. 97*.—(d) *Item que ex hostibus capiuntur, jure gentium statim capientium fiunt*. Dig 1. 41. tit. 1. §. 5. n. 7. de acquir. rer. dom.—*Un prise que fait en tems de guerre un vaisseau corsaire, autorisé pour alier en course, est un profit acquis aussitôt qu'elle est fait: C'est pour quoi le propriétaire du vaisseau corsaire peut le faire assurer pour tous les dangers qu'elle court, jusqu'à ce qu'elle soit amenée dans un port de France*. Pothier, b. 1. n. 38.

Thus :—

LeCras v. Hughes,
B. R. E. 22 G. 3
MS.

The captors, upon a joint capture by sea and land forces, have an insurable interest in the prize, before condemnation.

Thus :—Where an insurance was made on the ship *Saint Domingo*, and her cargo, valued at the sum insured ‘At and from *Omoa* to *London*,’ and it appeared, that Captain *John Luttrell*, with a squadron of men of war, and Captain *Dalrymple*, with a party of land forces on board, captured two *Spanish* register ships, lying under the protection of *Fort Omoa*, together with the fort itself, which were a joint capture to the sea and land forces; that the *Saint Domingo*, one of the register ships, on her voyage to *London*, laden with the captured property, was, together with a great part of her cargo, lost by the perils of the sea; and that the interest intended to be recovered by the policy, was that of the *officers and crews of the squadron*.—There were other policies on the same ship and goods amounting in all to 99,500*l*.—The principal question was, whether, by the *Spanish* prize act (a), the captors had an *insurable interest* in these prizes.—On the part of the underwriters, it was objected that, as this was a joint capture by the sea and land forces, the soldiers had not only no share, but prevented the navy from having any; for, as the act had not provided for such a capture, the whole vested in the crown.—But the court determined that the plaintiff had an insurable interest.—Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said,—“There are two questions in this cause; *first*, Whether the sea officers had an insurable interest, and this will depend on the prize act and proclamation; and, *secondly*, Whether possession, and the expectation of future benefit, founded on the contingency of a future grant from the crown, but warranted by almost universal practice, would amount to an insurable interest. As to the first, the act gives to the officers, seamen, marines and soldiers on board every ship of war, the sole property in all ships and goods which they shall take during the war, after condemnation. So that the act does not say that the seamen only shall take, nor does it leave a joint capture by the army and navy altogether undefined. It is like the case of a capture by a

(a) Stat. 19 G. III. c. 67.

combined fleet. I remember such a case, but the *English* sailors could not claim the whole, nor could the act mean that they should have nothing. The same observation might be made on a joint capture by the King's ships and privateers. For such cases there is no provision in the act, and yet, no doubt, the navy is entitled. Where soldiers assist, their right may be doubtful, but that does not lessen the right of the navy.—As to the second ground, the crown always makes the grant, and there is no instance to the contrary.—Probable profit may be insured, and the case of *Grant v. Parkinson* (a), where an interest, *not vested*, was holden to be insurable, is an authority in point. On either ground, therefore, the plaintiff has an insurable interest (b)."

The case of *Grant v. Parkinson*, went much farther than this. In that case there was neither a vested interest nor possession of that in which the interest was claimed, but only a bare expectation of profit: Here, there was a vested interest, a possession, and a responsibility to the owner, if it should turn out that the capture was illegal.

The following case shews that persons in the character of *trustees*, for the disposal of ships and goods according to such instructions as they might receive from third persons, may insure such ships and goods for the benefit of the persons who may eventually be entitled to the produce of them.

The stat. 35 G. III. c. 80. § 21., after reciting that several ships and vessels belonging to the subjects of the *United Provinces*, and others having on board goods and effects belonging to such subjects, had been, or might be, thereafter *detained in, or brought into the ports of this kingdom*, and such ships and cargoes might perish and be greatly injured if some provision were not made respecting the same, gives to his Majesty the power of granting 'a commission to three or more persons, authorizing them 'to take such ships and cargoes into their possession and 'under their care, and to manage, sell, or dispose of the

Trustees having the disposal of ships and goods according to the directions they may receive from third persons, may insure.

Crauford and others v. Hunter, 8 T. R. 13.

Commissioners being authorized by statute to take into their care all *Dutch ships, &c.* detained in *British* ports, and to dispose thereof according to directions from the privy council, may insure, in their own names, such ships, after seizure at sea, and while they are on their passage to *England*. — A count stating the nature of their work, and

(a) Sup. 97.—(b) See *Boehm v. Bell*, inf. ch. 15. § 1. Where the same point was admitted as clear law.

averring an interest in them as commissioners; or even without any averment of interest in any person, but with an averment that the ships insured *did not belong to his Majesty or any of his subjects*, is good.

‘same to the best advantage, according to such instructions as they should from time to time receive from his Majesty, with the advice of his privy council.’—Commissioners being appointed under this act, and certain *Dutch* ships with their cargoes being seized at sea by one of his Majesty’s ships, and carried into *St. Helena*, in order to be brought from thence to *England*, the plaintiffs, by the name of “The honourable commissioners for the sale of *Dutch* property,” as well in their own names as in the names of all other persons to whom the same might appertain, made an insurance on these ships and goods, lost or not lost, at and from *St. Helena* to *London*.—In an action on this policy, the plaintiffs in their declaration, after stating the above facts, averred that the plaintiffs, *as such commissioners*, at the time of the sailing of the said ships from *St. Helena*, and from thence until the time of the several losses, *were interested* in the said ships and goods to the amount of the sums insured, and that the said insurance was made for their use, benefit, and account, *as such commissioners*. It then stated the sailing of the ships from *St. Helena*, and their subsequent loss by the perils of the sea, and that the plaintiffs as such commissioners sustained a partial loss of 40*l. per cent.*—The second and third counts were similar to this, but the one averred the interest to be in *his Majesty*, the other in the *Dutch East India Company*. The fourth count was also similar, except that it did not aver interest in any person; but merely stated that the policy was made by the plaintiffs to such commissioners, ‘as well in their own names, as for and in the name or names of all and every other person or persons to whom the same did or might appertain in part or in all.’ It also contained this averment, that ‘*the said ships or any of them were not belonging to his Majesty or any of his subjects*, before or at the time of making the policy, or at the several times of the losses happening; and that the plaintiffs were the persons who gave the orders and directions to the agent immediately employed to effect the policy.’—Upon a special demurrer to the first and fourth counts, it was objected, as to the first, (*averring the interest to be in the plaintiffs as commissioners*),

tioners), that they had, at the beginning of the adventure, and at the time when the insurance was effected, only an interest *in expectation* in the ships and goods, and that no case had ever gone so far as to determine that to be an insurable interest; that their authority to manage, sell, and dispose of the property, (from which alone an interest could arise to them), was not to commence till the arrival of the property in a *British* port, which event never took place, and consequently their interest never attached. And as to the fourth count, it was objected that it was *repugnant in substance*, in as much as it averred that ‘*none of the ships insured belonged to his Majesty or any of his subjects*,’ (which averment was made to take the case out of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. prohibiting wagering insurances on ships or goods *belonging to his Majesty or any of his subjects*); whereas these ships, being seized under his Majesty’s orders, belonged to him; But at all events, it ought to have been specially averred in this count that there was an interest in some person, especially since the above act; and though the general allegation that the insurance was effected by the plaintiffs, for and in the names of all persons who might be interested, was large enough to comprehend all persons who were in fact interested, yet it could not be maintained that an insurance intended for the benefit of one individual, could be thus transferred to another.—But the court, after two arguments, were clearly of opinion that the plaintiffs were entitled to judgment on the first count, and that the second count was also good.—Lord Kenyon said:—“The ships having been seized at sea by his Majesty’s ships of war were at *St. Helena*, and were to be brought to this country, to be put under the care, management, and disposal of the plaintiffs, as commissioners under the act. Being so seized, they could not come here under any other management, or to any other persons than the plaintiffs, *as trustees*. Then can a *trustee* insure? There is no doubt but he may. It was said, however, in the course of the argument, that there cannot be a trustee for the Crown: But that argument was soon abandoned, as untenable; and certainly it cannot be supported. Then

A Trustee, a consignee, or an agent for prizes, may insure.

Then can a *confignee* insure? Surely he may. Can an *agent for prizes* insure? Certainly; and these plaintiffs are like agents for prizes. With one part of the case of *Cras v. Hughes* (a) I fully concur, and on that no doubt can be entertained, namely, that an agent for prizes though he has not the possession, has such an interest in the ships coming home, that he may insure; and in deciding, Lord *Mansfield* only proceeded on principles previously settled and established. Therefore, as well as the authority of that case, as on certain positions which must be admitted on all hands, I am of opinion that the plaintiffs are entitled to our judgement on the first count. The second question, whether or not the plaintiffs may declare in the manner in which the *fourth* count is framed, depends, I think, on the construction of the stat. 19 Geo. II. c. 37. Notwithstanding what has been said in the argument on behalf of the defendant, I think that at common law, a person might have insured without having any interest. And this is in some measure proved by the case of *Goddart v. Garrett* (b). Since that, an application was made to the Court of Chancery to have the policy delivered up: For that Court sometimes relieves as was said by Sir *J. Jekyll* in *Cowper v. Cowper* (c) against the rigour of the law, when certain circumstances are disclosed, to induce that Court to interfere. By the preamble and enacting part of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 3 to remove all doubts on this point. It recites the misfeits and inconveniences that had arisen from the making of insurances, interest or no interest, and then it *enacts*, (in declaring), that no such insurance shall be made, except in certain cases, which, for very wise and politic reasons were excepted. Therefore I am satisfied that this count is good, unless it be on an insurance prohibited by the statute. But that statute only applies to "ships belonging to his Majesty or any of his subjects," and does not extend to foreign ships. The defendant's counsel did wish to consider these ships as belonging to the Government of this country: But that cannot be so considered.

At common law, an insurance might have been made without interest.

(a) Sup. 108.—(b) 2 Kerr. 260. inf. E. 2.—(c) 1 P. W. 78

the property in captured ships is not altered before condemnation in the Court of Admiralty."—Mr. Justice *Asbursft* said,—“ The principal question in this case is, whether the fourth count can be supported for want of an averment of interest in the plaintiffs in the subject-matter insured ; as to which I am of opinion, that the declaration is good, without such an averment. For this is not a case that falls within the purview of the statute against gaming policies. But without entering into that, it is sufficiently clear, upon the first count, that the plaintiffs were interested. It is not necessary that there should be any technical form of words made use of by way of averment of interest ; it is sufficient, if the fact appear to be so. Suppose the subject of the insurance had been an enemy's ship, taken as prize, in time of war, by a King's ship, and the captain of such ship had insured her, I should conceive such insurance would be good. The information given to the underwriters by the plaintiffs, on the face of the present declaration, is matter of equal notoriety ; for it shews the act of Parliament by which a power and authority were vested in the Crown for the several purposes therein mentioned, and that the plaintiffs were appointed commissioners by the King, to take care of such property, of a certain description, as might come into their hands, and that this was property of that description. This seems to be all that the underwriters could have occasion to know, and shews that the plaintiffs were in the nature of agents. The plaintiffs did not affect to make this insurance in their own right, but as trustees for those persons who should eventually be entitled to it.”

The captain who makes a capture may insure his prize.

After this decision another action was brought on the same policy, and upon the general issue pleaded, the cause came on to be tried before Lord *Kenyon*, who, upon the same facts being proved, directed a verdict for the plaintiffs.

Lucena v. Crauford, 3 Bos. & Pul. 75.

Same point.

A bill of exceptions being thereupon tendered, and the record, with a statement of the facts proved, being removed into the *Exchequer Chamber* by writ of error, that court, after hearing the case three times argued, affirmed the judgment of the King's Bench.—In this case it was also determined, that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover

The plaintiffs were entitled to recover, though

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the loss did not happen till after hostilities commenced.

In the case of a foreign ship, it is not necessary to aver interest.

cover for a loss upon such ships, by perils of the sea, though such loss did not happen till after a proclamation had issued for general reprisals against the *Dutch*.

In a subsequent case the point determined upon the fourth count of the declaration in *Crawford v. Hunter*, (a) was brought to a solemn decision; and the court, after two arguments, determined that, in an action on a policy on a foreign ship, the declaration need not aver any interest in the insured, though there be no such words as "*interest or no interest*" in the policy. (b)

The following case will shew that a mere *cestui que trust* of goods, without any legal title, may insure.

Mill & another v. Secretan, 1 Bos. & Pul. 315.

A. being indebted to B, without any order from B, consigns goods to C, to be held for B, and indorses the bill of lading to C—B. has a good insurable interest in the goods so consigned to C.

An insurance was made on behalf of the plaintiffs, on goods on board the *San Bernardo*, "at and from *Andero* to *London*."—In an action on this policy to recover a loss by capture, it appeared that *De la Torré*, in *Spain*, had consigned 29 bags of wool to *Dubois* in *London*, and indorsed the bill of lading to him; but that, with the bill of lading, came a letter, directing *Dubois* to hold 15 bags for a house at *Halifax*, and the remainder for the plaintiffs at *Exeter*, which were the goods insured. It also appeared that *De la Torré* was indebted to the plaintiffs to the amount of 500*l.*, but that they had given no orders for these goods: The only question was, whether the plaintiffs had an insurable interest.—It was contended on the part of the defendant, that as the bill of lading was not indorsed to the plaintiffs, and as *De la Torré* would still be liable for his debt to them, if the goods should not reach them, they remained the property of *De la Torré*, and the plaintiffs had no right in them.—But the court were clearly of opinion, that, as the goods were consigned to *Dubois*, to hold for the plaintiffs, he was to be considered as trustee for them; and that the plaintiffs, being creditors of *De la Torré*, raised a good consideration for the consignment, and the plaintiffs had a good insurable interest.

(a) Sup. 109. — (b) Vid. *Nantes v. Thompson*, 2 East 385, post, ch. 16. s. 2. Vid. also *Kellner v. Le Mesurier*, 4 East 396, 400. S. P.

If the consignor of a cargo of goods send the bills of lading, together with bills of exchange for the amount of the cargo, to his general agent, with directions to deliver the bills of lading to the consignee, on his accepting the bills of exchange, and the consignee refuse to receive the goods or accept the bills of exchange; such general agent becomes in effect the consignee of the goods, and may insure them as agent for the consignor, or in his own right, if he have accepted bills on the credit of the goods (a).

A general agent upon the consignee's refusal to take the goods, may insure them in his own right, if he have accepted bills on account of them.

From the authorities which have been already cited, it appears that, provided the object of the contract be not a wager, almost any qualified property in the thing insured, or any reasonable expectation of profit or advantage to arise therefrom, will constitute that sort of interest which the party may legally protect by insurance.—Still, however, an insurable interest must be founded on some legal or equitable title; and though a person may have a sort of *claim*, which, as between him and the legal owner, might be thought reasonable, and such as the legal owner could not conscientiously dispute; yet if this claim be inconsistent with the only title which the law can recognize, it will not be deemed to be even an equitable title, and therefore not an insurable interest.

But an insurable interest can only be founded on a legal or equitable title; and a mere claim which is neither legal or equitable, is not an insurable interest.

Thus:—In an action on a policy on freight valued at 500*l.* there were two counts in the declaration. The first averred the interest to be in the three plaintiffs, *Camden*, *Calvert*, and *King*, in whose names the insurance was effected; the second averred it to be in the plaintiffs and one *Curtis*.—On the trial, it appeared that the ship had been paid for by the four persons named in the last count, to whom a bill of sale was made.—The defendant produced a register made in 1786, in pursuance of the stat. 26 G. III. c. 60, (*Lora Hawkebury's* act), wherein the ship was registered in the names of *Camden* and *Calvert* only, and it was insisted that, as the plaintiff's title to freight could only arise from the ownership, the register

Camden & another v. Anderson, 5 T. R. 709.

Four Persons purchase a ship, which is only registered in the names of two of them; the four have not an insurable interest in the freight, having neither a legal nor an equitable title to the ship.

(a) *R. Wolff v. Horncastle*, 1 Bos. & Pul. 316. post. c. 8. § 3.

was decisive evidence that no other persons than those two were interested in the property (a); and there was no count in the declaration stating the interest to be in those two.—The plaintiffs, however, took a verdict, with liberty to the defendant to move to enter a nonsuit.—Upon this motion, it was contended on the part of the plaintiffs; *first*, that it was competent to *Camden* and *King*, in whose names the ship was registered and the bill of sale taken, to transfer their right by parol agreement to the other two partners jointly with themselves; *secondly*, that it was sufficient for them to shew that they had an equitable interest to entitle them to freight; for though the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. required that the insured should have some interest in the thing insured; yet, whether that were a legal or an equitable interest, or even a reasonable expectation of interest, it was still insurable.—But the court clearly held that the *four* partners had not any insurable interest in the freight, and a nonsuit was accordingly entered.—Lord *Kenyon* said—“I studiously avoid discussing the question whether or not a party may insure a *hope or expectation*, not having any interest in the subject insured: It will be time enough to examine that case when it arises. But on the present question I cannot entertain a doubt; for the right to freight results from the right of ownership; and if the plaintiffs have no title to the ship, they have no interest in the freight. It is like the case of an action for use and occupation: If one person permit another to enjoy his estate, it is not competent to the latter to dispute the title of the former.—But if the former bring an action against a third person, which depends on his own title, he cannot succeed, unless he shew a title. So, if the plaintiffs had let out the ship to other

Freight can only be due to the legal owner of the ship, and he only can insure it.

(a) By stat. 26 G. III. c. 60. s. 17, (Lord *Hawkebury's Act*)
 ‘When and so often as the property in any ship or vessel shall
 ‘be transferred to any other or others, in whole or in part, the
 ‘certificate of the registry of such ship or vessel shall be truly
 ‘and accurately recited in words at length, in the bill or other
 ‘instrument of sale thereof, otherwise such bill of sale shall be
 ‘utterly null and void to all intents and purposes.’”

persons, perhaps those persons would not have been suffered to contest the plaintiffs title: But here, the plaintiffs claim the freight in right of ownership: They had no right to insure the freight, unless they can shew a right to the ship: It is not pretended that they had any legal title to the ship; and according to the decision of *Hibbert v. Rolleston* (a), they had no equitable title. It was there held, that the register act was equally binding in a court of equity, as in a court of law, and the court refused to compel the vendor to make a legal conveyance to the purchaser, who claimed under a defective bill of sale. And, indeed, if an equitable interest could prevail in contradistinction to a legal interest, it would repeal the wise provisions of that act, which has proved highly beneficial to the commercial interests of the country." (b)

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Though respondentia and bottomry loans are themselves a species of insurance, yet the lender has an insurable interest in his securities, and therefore may protect himself from the *sea-risk* by insuring them. If I lend, *J. S.* 1000*l.* on bottomry at 12 *per cent.* for a given voyage, and the ship arrive safe, he must pay me the sum lent with the stipulated interest. If the ship be lost, *J. S.* is discharged from the debt. My capital is therefore put in risk; and there can be no reason why I should not insure it; and this insurance is in nature of a re-insurance.

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In several parts of *Italy* it is permitted to lend money on bottomry and respondentia, where the borrower has nothing on board. It is singular, however, that in such case, if the lender insure his capital, and the ship be lost, the insurer is not answerable, unless the insurance were made in the form of a wager. At *Genoa*, even in that form such insurance is prohibited (c).—In *Italy* the lender may insure, not only his principal, but also the marine interest. But upon the interest, the insurance is considered as a wager. Even the honesty of the borrower may be insured (d).—In *France* the borrower is pro-

(a) 3 T. R. 406. — (b) *Vid. Marshall v. Robinson*, 4 Esp. N. P. Rep. 98, inf. ch. 16, f. 5, n. 4. — (c) *Casaregis*, disc. 14. n. 21, — (d) *Casaregis*, disc. 1. n. 123, 124,

The owner of the ship or goods has only an insurable interest in the surplus value above the sum lent.

Gregory v. Chr. B. R.
Fr. 24. G. III.
Park 11, inf.
ch. 7. f. 5.

But the usage of trade may take a case out of this rule. Upon an insurance on goods, specie and effects in the India trade, the insured may recover for money laid out for the use of the ship, and for which he charged respondentia interest; it being the usage of the trade to insure in this form.

The borrower cannot underwrite a policy on bottomry.

hibited from insuring the sum borrowed; and the lender, though he may insure his capital, must not insure the interest (a). The lender can insure only the amount of the sum lent, and the borrower has an insurable interest in the ship or goods to the amount of the surplus value above the sum lent (b). If either were to insure more, it would be a gaming insurance, and void by the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37, for all above the real interest.

Yet where the usage of a particular trade has sanctioned a departure from this rule, an insurance made in conformity to such usage will be good.—As where an insurance was made on behalf of the captain of an *East Indiaman*, on “*goods, specie, and effects*” on board his ship.—In an action on the policy, the plaintiff claimed to recover, under that insurance, money which he had expended in the course of the voyage for the use of the ship, and for which he charged respondentia interest.—On the trial it appeared, that this kind of interest was always insured under the denomination of *goods, specie, and effects*. The court determined, that under the usage the plaintiff might recover.—Lord *Mansfield*, after delivering his opinion upon another point which arose in the case, said;—“As to the question, whether the words, “*goods, specie, and effects*,” comprehend this interest, I should think not, if we were to consider only the words made use of. But here there is an *express usage* which must govern our decision.”

It is plain that a policy on bottomry or respondentia cannot be subscribed by the borrower of the money; because it is only in consideration of the sea risk, from which he is exempt, that he agrees to pay the marine interest. If he were to become an insurer, this would be no longer a loan upon bottomry, but a cloak for usury.

(a) Ord. of Louis, 14. h. t. art. 16. 17. *Pathier*, h. t. 32, 44. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 236, 237. — (b) Vid. 19. G. II. c. 37. f. 5, and Lord *Mansfield*'s exposition of it in *Glover v. Black* 3 *Bur.* 1394. 1 *Bl.* 399, 405, 422. inf. c. 8. f. 3.

Sect. II.

Of Wager Policies.

MANY are the contrivances which men have fallen upon for the gratification of their propensity to gaming : And the uncertain events of maritime adventure afford an obvious and extensive field for the calculation of chances, and the decision of fortune.

The practice of gaming, by nourishing a constant hope of gain, excites in the mind an interest which engrosses the attention, and withdraws the exertions of men from useful pursuits. By pointing out a speedy, though hazardous mode of accumulating wealth, it produces a contempt for the moderate, but certain, profits of sober industry. It perverts the activity of the mind, taints the heart, and depraves the affections : And, by frequent and great reverses of fortune, it becomes not only the source of great private misery, but suggests constant temptations to fraud and the perpetration of the most atrocious crimes. — There are few well regulated governments, therefore, in which gaming has not been laid under considerable restrictions. In this country ideas less rigid have prevailed. Innocent wagers have long had the sanction of the common law (a). They are only deemed illegal where they are prohibited by statute (b) ; where they tend to create an improper influence on the mind, in the exercise of a public duty (c) ; where they are *contra bonos mores*, or in any other manner tend to the prejudice of the public, or the injury of third persons (d). And yet, after all, it must

Gaming.

Legality of wagers in England.

(a) 11 Rep. 876, 1 Lev. 33. 5 Bur. 2802. — (b) *R. Ximenes v. Jaques*, 6 T. R. 499. — (c) *R. Allen v. Hearn*, 1 T. R. 56. — (d) *R. Atherfold v. Beard*, 2 T. R. 610. *R. Da Costa v. Jones*, Cowp. 729. *Roebuck v. Hammerton*, Cowp. 737 ; and yet, in the case of *Jones v. Randall*, Cowp. 37, the Court determined that an action might be maintained on a wager, ' whether a decree of the court of Chancery would be reversed or not in the House of Lords.' — It is not easy to reconcile it with any just idea of public

must be owned that the law greatly descends from its dignity, when it lends its aid to give effect to any wager, however innocent.

We

public policy, that a wager upon the event of a decision in the supreme court of justice, should have met with so much countenance. In the case of *Atherfold v. Beard*, above referred to, Mr. Justice *Abbott* says that, 'in his opinion, the courts had gone far enough in encouraging wagers, and that it would, perhaps, have been better for the public if the courts had originally determined that no action could be maintained to enforce the payment of a wager.' Mr. Justice *Buller*, in the same case, seemed to doubt the legality of any wager between persons not interested in the subject matter: and said that the stat. 14 G. III. c. 48, extended to all wagers, though it speaks only of *policies*; 'for,' says he, 'either the courts must refrain that act to such cases as *in form* are policies, which would entirely repeal it; or, by pursuing the spirit of it, extend it to all cases. I think the latter is the true construction; for a policy is nothing but a promise. And it would be strange to determine that the party might do the same thing in one form, which the statute has expressly prohibited to be done in another.'—In the case of *Good v. Elliott*, 3 T. R. 693. Mr. Justice *Buller* had an opportunity of maintaining the opinion which he had thus thrown out.—The question was, *first*, whether a wager that *A.* had purchased a waggon of *B.* was void at common law, as being a *gaming contract*; and *secondly*, whether it was void by the above stat. 14 G. III. The learned judge maintained the affirmative on both these points. But the rest of the judges of the court of King's Bench, namely Lord *Kenyon*, Mr. Justice *Abbott*, and Mr. Justice *Grose*, were clearly of a contrary opinion, upon both points. They held that, however it might be wished that no wagers were permitted, the question, whether an action would lie on any wager, had been settled by so many authorities, both ancient and modern, that no doubt could now be entertained upon it. And as to the second point, whether the wager was void by the stat. 14 G. III., they held that that act related wholly to *policies of insurance*, and that it would be distorting the meaning of the words, to suppose that such a wager as the above could have been within the meaning of the legislature.—In the case of *Roebeck v. Hammerton*, Cowp. 737. it was holden that a policy made upon the sex of the chevalier *D'Eon* was within the prohibition of this stat. 14 G. III. c. 48.

And

We have already observed (a), that an insurance, being a contract of *indemnity*, its object is, not to make a *positive gain*, but to avert a *possible loss*; and that, as a man can never be said to be *indemnified* against a loss which can never happen to him, a policy without interest is no insurance, but only a mere wager. It is *spei emptio*, and not *aversio periculi*, which is the true idea of an insurance. A policy, therefore, made without interest, is properly denominated a *wager policy*, and has nothing in common with insurance but the name and form.

Difference between a wager and an insurance.

It is usually conceived in the terms, '*interest or no interest*,' or, '*without further proof of interest than the policy*;' to preclude all enquiry into the interest of the insured. And, as a consequence of the insured's having no interest in the pretended subject of the policy, it follows that the insurer cannot be liable for any partial loss. A partial loss is not an event sufficiently defined and precise to be the criterion of a wager; and nothing but that sort of misfortune which is considered as amounting to a total loss can decide it. The parties mean to play for the whole stake; and when the underwriter pays a loss, he cannot, as in the case of an insurance upon interest, claim any benefit from what may have been saved; and to preclude all claim of that sort, the words, '*free of average, and without benefit of salvage*,' are always introduced into *wager policies*.

Form of a *wager policy*.

These gaming contracts were formerly in use in *France*, and they are still tolerated in *Portugal* and some parts of *Italy*. In *France* the mischiefs resulting from them were soon discovered; and they were prohibited in the year

Wager policies prohibited in most commercial states.

And in *Mellison v. Staples*, at G. H. Mich. Vac. 1778, Lord Mansfield held that a policy made on the event of there being an open trade between *Great Britain* and *Maryland* on or before the 6th of *July* 1778, was void; 1st, because the insured had no interest within the meaning of the act, which was made to prevent gambling policies; and though every man has an interest in the events of war and peace, this was not an interest within the act; 2dly. because the name of the party interested was not inserted in the policy according to the 2d. section of the act.

— (a) Sup. 104.

1681 by the ordinance of the marine (a), which seems to have been, in this respect, scrupulously enforced. And so general, indeed, is the aversion from all insurances not founded upon a real and vested interest in the thing insured, that not only wagers, in the form of insurances, but even insurances upon expected profit, freight not earned, seamen's wages, &c. are prohibited by the ordinances of most of the commercial states of Europe (b).

Whether legal
in England.

If the question, whether a wager policy be a legal contract at common law, were now *res integra*. I think it would be extremely difficult to maintain the affirmative. As a *wager*, I need only refer the reader to the preamble to the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. (c), to shew that it is pregnant with as much mischief, both public and private, as can proceed from any species of gaming which the legislature has hitherto found it necessary to repress. And yet, within the space of little more than a century, it has crept into use in this country, and has at length obtained the sanction of the courts of *Westminster*. It will not be uninteresting to trace, as far as we are enabled by authorities, the steps by which this mischievous species of gaming came to find so much favour in the eyes of the law.

At what time
introduced there.

At what time these wager policies first came into use in this country is not quite certain; but it was probably since the revolution. The clause "*interest or no interest*," does not necessarily make the policy a wager (d). This

(a) *Defendons de faire assurer ou réassurer des effets au dela de leur valeur, par une ou plusieurs polices, à peine de nullité de l'assurance, et de confiscation des marchandises* — Si toutefois il se trouve une police faite sans fraude, qui excède la valeur des effets chargés, elle subsistera jusqu'à concurrence de leur estimation; et en cas de perte, les assureurs seront tenus chacun à proportion des sommes par eux assurées comme aussi de rendre la prime du surplus à la réserve du demi pour cent. Ord. de la Mar, h. t. art 22, 23. Vid. *Valin* on articles 22, 23. h. t. p. 71, 72. — (b) Vid. Ord. of *Amsterdam*, *Rottterdam*, *Conningsberg*, *Genoa*, *Stockholm*, &c. as collected by *Magnus*. — (c) *Inf.* 127. — (d) Vid. sup. 102.

clause was at first countenanced in the supposition that it only amounted to an admission of the interest of the insured, and could have no other effect than to save him the trouble and expence of proving his interest in case of litigation (a).

In the case of *Martin v. Sitwell*, which came before the court of King's Bench in the year 1691, it was admitted that where goods are insured, but it appears that the insured had none on board; the policy, by the custom of merchants, is void, and the insurer bound to return the premium.

Martin v. Sitwell, 1 Show. 156.

The first case I can find where the validity of an insurance without interest came directly in question in *Wejminster Hall*, was in the year 1692.—A bill was filed in the Court of Chancery to have a policy delivered up to be cancelled, upon the ground that the insured had no interest either in the ship or cargo.—The insured had lent 300*l.* on bottomry on the ship; and, without any other interest, insured 450*l.* upon her. The ship survived the time limited in the bottomry bond; but was lost within the time limited by the policy; and the insured claimed, not only the money due on the bond, but also the sum insured by the policy — The court (b) decreed the policy to be delivered up to be cancelled, and said,—“Take it, that the law is settled, that if a man has no interest and insures, the insurance is void, although it be expressed in the policy, *interested or not interested*. And the reason the law goes upon is, that insurances are made for the encouragement of trade, and not that persons unconcerned in trade, nor interested in the ship, should profit by them. The reason why the law allows, that a man having some interest in a ship or cargo, may insure more, or five times as much, is, that a merchant cannot tell how much, or how little, his factor may have in readiness to load on board his ship.”

Goddart v. Garrett, 2 Vern. 269

In 1692, a policy was ordered to be delivered up to be cancelled, because the insured had no interest.

(a) Per Cur. in *De Paiba v. Ludlow*, 1 Com. Rep. 361.—

(b) The commissioners of the great seal, at that time were, Sir John Trevor, Mr. Serjeant Hutchins, and Mr. Serjeant Raylston.

*Affredo v.
Cambridge,
10 Mod. 77.*

In 1710, a
wager policy
was admitted in
B. R. to be a
legal contract.

In the course of twenty years from this time, this doctrine seems to have given place to a contrary sentiment; for, in 1710, a case came before the court of King's Bench, upon a special verdict, where the question was, whether the insured upon a policy without interest, was entitled to recover as for a total loss, where the ship, having been captured, was re-captured before she was carried *infra præsidia hostium*.—The case was argued by civilians; but it was only contended on the part of the defendant, that the insured, in a *wager policy*, ought not to recover in a case where he could not have recovered on a policy *upon interest*. It was never objected that the policy was void for want of interest; so that the legality of *wager policies* seems not to have been at that time doubted. On the contrary, Doctor *Floyer*, in arguing for the plaintiff, insisted that, as the policy was a *wager*, the question whether the capture divested the property out of the owners, did not arise between the plaintiff and defendant; the only question between them being merely, whether the ship was in fact taken.

*Le Pyre v.
Farr, 2 Vern.
716.*

In 1716, it was
holden that the
value in the po-
licy should be
the true value
of the effects
insured.

A few years afterwards, (*Mich. 1716*), upon a bill for a discovery filed in the court of Chancery by the underwriters against the insured, upon a valued policy; the Lord Chancellor ordered the defendant to discover what goods he had put on board: For though he offered to renounce all interest to the insurers, yet it was referred to a master to examine the value of the goods saved, and to deduct it out of the 600*l.* at which the goods were valued by the agreement.

Not much can be gathered from the imperfect report of this case, except that, in the case of a valued policy, the insured was considered as bound, if called upon, to shew that goods to the amount of the value in the policy were in fact put on board; from which it may be inferred that the court of Chancery, at least, still deemed the policy valid only to the extent of the interest of the insured.

*Herman v. Van
Hatten, 2 Vern.
717.*

In the same year
it was deter-
mined that the
tender on bot-

And yet, in the same term, a case, not unlike that of *Goddart v. Garrett (a)*, came before the same court, in

(a) Sup. 123.

which

which the opinion of the Lord Chancellor seems to have proceeded on quite a contrary principle. There it appeared that the defendant had lent the plaintiff 25*l.* on bottomry, and afterwards insured the ship for the same sum, but for a greater voyage than that which was mentioned in the bottomry bond. The ship being lost, the defendant recovered the money on the policy, and also put the bottomry bond in suit, the ship having, before she was lost, deviated from the voyage mentioned in the bond.—The plaintiff brought his bill, insisting that, as the defendant had no interest in the ship, but in respect of the money lent on bottomry, he ought not to have the fruit both of the bond and the policy, and praying to have the benefit of the insurance, on paying the premium.—But the Lord Chancellor held that the defendant, having paid the premium, was entitled to the benefit of the policy, as well as of the bond.

bottomry might have the benefit, not only of the bond, but of a policy on the ship also.

The decision of this case is quite at variance with that of *Goddart v. Garrett*, and shews that a new doctrine, founded on a new principle, had introduced itself into the court of Chancery since the year 1692.

In the year 1721, a case nearly similar to that of *Affredo v. Cambridge* (a), came before the court of Common Pleas.—A ship, insured *interest or no interest*, was captured by a pirate, and after nine days retaken and brought into an *English* port.—The court determined that the defendant was liable. For though it was objected that the insurer was only responsible where the plaintiff had a property, and that the term of insuring, *interest or no interest*, was introduced since the revolution; yet it was said that such an insurance was good, and the import of it was, that, as the defendant could not controvert the interest, the plaintiff had no occasion to prove it (b).—From this last declaration it would seem that though the judges were not, at that time, inclined to

De Paiba v. Lushow, 1 Com. Rep. 361.

In 1721, it was determined that an insurance, *interest or no interest*, was good.

(a) Sup. 124.—(b) It would seem rather to have been a contrivance to deceive the insurers and evade the law. Taken in that light it was void; for *non valet conventio ne dolus praestetur*.

discountenance insurances in this form, they were not quite willing to admit them to be mere wagers.

Dunn v. Dicker,
2 Str. 1250. inf.
4. 12. f. 3.

In 1746, a
wager policy
was holden to
be good.

At length, in 1746, a case came before Lord C. J. *Let* at *nisi prius*, upon a policy without interest, on goods.—The ship was taken and carried into an enemy's port, from whence she was cut out by an *English* ship eight days after.—The plaintiff insisted that this policy, though on goods, was a wager on the bottom of the ship, and that he was therefore entitled to recover as for a total loss. The defendant insisted that, as the ship and cargo were to be restored on paying salvage, this was only an average loss, and the plaintiff could only recover in the case of a total one —But the Chief Justice held that the plaintiff ought to recover; for his was a wager upon a total loss *in the voyage*, and there had happened one by the capture and detention for eight days.

These are all the early cases I have been able to find on this question. From the first of them it appears that, even since the revolution, it was determined that an insurance without interest was void. Afterwards it would seem that policies, *interest or no interest*, which were at first, perhaps, insurances upon real interest, became in time only a cloak for mere gaming contracts, were at length openly avowed, and became frequent subjects of litigation in the courts of *Westminster*.

More modern
decisions.

In more modern times, our most eminent judges have recognized them as legal contracts.—Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court in the case of *Goss v. Withers* (a), distinguishes between wager policies and policies upon real interest, in order to shew that, in an action upon the former, the plaintiff could only recover in the case of a total loss; but that, upon the latter, the insured might recover the loss really sustained, whether total or partial.—In the case of *Crauford v. Hunter* (b), Lord *Kenyon*, and the rest of the judges of the court of King's Bench were unanimously of opinion that, at common law, before the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37., a person might have insured without having any interest in the thing insured.

(a) 2 Bar. 695. inf. c. 13. f. 1.—(b) 8 T. R. 23. sup. 109.

Certain it is that this species of gaming having thus obtained the sanction of the law, became, about the year 1746, so prevalent, and the evils resulting from it so injurious to the best interests of this country, that the legislature found it necessary to interpose, and by the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. has imposed some wholesome restraints upon it.

The preamble recites that, 'Whereas it hath been found by experience that the making of insurances, interest or no interest, or without further proof of interest than the policy, hath been productive of many pernicious practices, whereby great numbers of ships, with their cargoes, have either been fraudulently lost and destroyed, or taken by the enemy in time of war; and such insurances have encouraged the exportation of wool and the carrying on of many other prohibited and clandestine trades, which, by means of such insurances, have been concealed, and the parties concerned secured from loss, as well to the diminution of the public revenue, as to the great detriment of fair traders; and by introducing a mischievous kind of gaming, under pretence of insuring against the risk on shipping and fair trade, the institution and laudable design of making insurances hath been perverted; and that which was intended for the encouragement of trade and navigation hath, in many instances, become hurtful of, and destructive to, the same.'—The statute therefore enacts (§ 1.), 'That no insurance shall be made on any ship or ships belonging to his Majesty, or any of his subjects, or any goods or effects laden on board such ships, interest or no interest, or, without further proof of interest than the policy, or, by way of gaming or wagering, or, without benefit of salvage to the insurer, and that every such insurance shall be void.'

At length prohibited by Stat. 19 G. II. c. 37.

By s. 1. No insurance shall be made on the ships or goods of his Majesty, or any of his subjects, interest or no interest, &c.

But, by § 2. 'It is provided, That insurances on private ships of war, fitted out by any of his Majesty's subjects, solely to cruise against his enemies, may be made by or for the owners thereof, interest or no interest, free of average, and without benefit of salvage to the insurer.'

§ 2. Except on privateers.

§ 3. And except as to effects imported from the dominions of Spain and Portugal.

§ 5. Money lent on bottomry or respondentia, in the East India trade, shall be lent only on the ship or goods, and insured only by the lender. The borrower shall not recover on any insurance more than the value of his interest, exclusive of the money borrowed. If this do not amount to the sum borrowed, he shall be responsible for the deficiency, though the ship be lost.

And by § 3. it is also provided, 'That any effects from any port or places in *Europe* or *America*, in the possession of the crowns of *Spain* or *Portugal*, may be insured in the same manner as if this act had not been made (a).'

By sect. 5. 'All sums of money lent on bottomry or respondentia, upon ships belonging to his Majesty's subjects, bound to or from the *East Indies*, shall be lent only on the ship, or on the merchandize or effects on board, or to be laden on board, and shall be so expressed in the condition of the bond; and the benefit of salvage shall be allowed to the lender, his agents or assigns, who alone shall have a right to make insurance on the money so lent; and the borrower shall recover no more on any insurance than the value of his interest in the ship, or in the goods on board, exclusive of the money so borrowed: And in case it shall appear that the value of his share in the ship, or in the goods on board, doth not amount to the sum borrowed, he shall

(a) The reason of this exception is not very obvious. That assigned for it is, that *Spain* and *Portugal* have each prohibited all trade between the subjects of foreign states and their respective colonies in *America*. *Park* 274. But it does not follow from thence that *British* subjects might not import goods from *Spain* and *Portugal*. Certain it is that a great trade is generally carried on with both those countries by *British* subjects in their own names.—The true reason for this exception seems to be, that persons carrying on a contraband trade with those countries, might insure their goods without disclosing the particular commodities of which they consisted; which, without this exception, they must have done, in order to prove an interest. *Emerigon* (vol. i. p. 212.) says, that the reason of this exception in the *English* statute is sufficiently obvious; namely, that the *English*, who practise smuggling in those countries, can obtain no bills of lading, or other evidence of their cargoes. He admits, however, that the same practice is permitted in *France*, not by law, but by an evasion of the law. *Lord Mansfield* is stated by Mr. Justice *Buller* to have given nearly the same reason for this exception. Vid. 2 T R. 165.—Vid. *Thellusson v. Fletcher*, inf. ch. 13. § 3.

‘ be responsible to the lender for so much of the money
 ‘ borrowed as he hath not laid out in the ship or goods on
 ‘ board, with interest for the same, together with the
 ‘ insurance and all other charges thereon, in the pro-
 ‘ portion which the money not laid out shall bear to the
 ‘ whole money lent, notwithstanding the ship and goods
 ‘ be totally lost.’

And, by sect. 6. ‘ In all actions brought by the in-
 ‘ sured, the plaintiff, or his attorney or agent, shall,
 ‘ within fifteen days after he shall be required so to do
 ‘ in writing by the defendant or his attorney or agent,
 ‘ declare in writing what sum or sums he hath insured,
 ‘ or caused to be insured in the whole, and what sums
 ‘ he hath borrowed at respondentia or bottomry, for the
 ‘ voyage or any part of the voyage in question (a).’

The regulations and restrictions of this statute, being
 confined to insurances on ships belonging to his Majesty
 and his subjects, and to goods or effects laden thereon,
 insurances upon the ships and goods of foreigners are
 not within the act, but remain upon the same footing as
 before the passing of it, as appears by the following
 case.

An insurance was made on goods on board three
French ships, & from St. Domingo to Bourdeaux, all or
 ‘ any of them; the goods by agreement to be valued at
 ‘ a certain sum; the policy to be deemed *sufficient proof*
 ‘ *of interest* in case of loss.’—The declaration averred
 that goods, to the amount of the sum insured, were
 shipped on board the three ships, *some or one of them*, and
 that two of them had been captured, and the other lost.
 —After judgment by default, and a writ of inquiry
 executed, the defendant moved to set aside the inquisition,
 on the ground that damages had been assessed to the full
 amount of the defendant’s subscription, without any

The plaintiff in
 any action on a
 policy, shall, in
 15 days after
 request, declare
 how much he
 has insured, and
 borrowed on
 bottomry.

The restrictions
 of this act do
 not extend to
 foreign ships, or
 goods on board.

Thellusson v. Fletcher, Dougl. 301.

In a policy on a
 foreign ship,
 there is a stipu-
 lation that the
 policy shall be
 sufficient proof
 of interest. Up-
 on a writ of in-
 quiry, the
 plaintiff need
 not give any evi-
 dence of interest.

(a) The stat. 14 G. III. c. 48. was made to restrain insu-
 rances upon lives, or other events, beyond the interest of the
 insured; but, by an express proviso in the 4th section, it is
 declared that it shall not extend to marine insurances. Vid. inf.
 B.3. ch 3.

proof of the value, or any other evidence, except the defendant's hand-writing to the policy; and that, in fact, the insured had no interest.—The court held, that this policy was not within the statute, foreign ships not being included in it, on account of the difficulty of bringing witnesses from abroad to prove the interest; and that, by suffering judgment to go by default, the defendant had confessed the plaintiff's title to recover; and the amount was fixed by the stipulation in the policy.

An insurance cannot be made on goods, to depend on the fate of the ship.

An insurance cannot be made upon one thing, to depend on the fate of another. If the subject matter of an insurance be unconnected with the event insured against, the policy, if not altogether nugatory, is at least a wager. As if a cargo be insured, and money be expended in reclaiming it upon the ship being captured, and this money be, by the court of Admiralty, made a charge upon the cargo: This cargo cannot be insured upon the event of the ship's arrival at her port of destination; for this, as to the ship, is a mere wager; and as to the cargo, the underwriters are not liable to any peril to which it is exposed.

Kulen Kemp v. Vigne, 1 T. R. 304

Money is expended in reclaiming a cargo on board a captured ship, which is made a charge upon the cargo. This money is insured upon the cargo, upon the event of the ship's arrival at her port of destination. The ship being again captured and restored upon appeal, relinquishes the voyage insured, and is afterwards lost. —The policy being on the goods, and the insurance being on the ship's arrival, is a wager, and void.

Thus :—Goods were insured on board the *Emanuel*, at and from *Falmouth* to *Marseilles*, warranted a *Danish* ship.—On the policy was this memorandum :—
 ' The following insurance is declared to be on money
 ' expended for reclaiming the ship and cargo, valued at
 ' the sum which shall be declared hereafter. The loss
 ' to be paid in case the ship does not arrive at *Marseilles*,
 ' and without farther proof of interest than this policy;
 ' warranted free from average, and without benefit of
 ' salvage.'—The insured were proprietors of the cargo, but not of the ship. The ship had sailed originally with the cargo from *Riga* on a voyage to *Marseilles*, was captured by an *English* privateer, and condemned.—The sentence of condemnation was afterwards reversed, the prize being proved to be a *neutral* ship; but the expences were ordered by the Admiralty to be a charge upon the cargo. The plaintiff's agents paid these expences amounting to 1031*l.* 14*s.*, and immediately procured the above insurance to be effected. In *February* 1781, the ship failed

failed from *Falmouth*, with the original cargo on-board, in the prosecution of her voyage to *Marfailles*, but was captured by a *Spanish* ship, and carried into *Ceuta*, where she was again condemned. An appeal was brought, and the cargo, being of a perishable nature, was ordered to be sold, and the proceeds brought into court, to wait the event of the suit. In *May* 1783 the ship was restored by sentence of the court of appeal. After deducting the expence of prosecuting the appeal in *Spain*, the surplus, amounting to no more than twenty-six rix dollars, was paid to the owners. As soon as the ship was liberated, she sailed from *Ceuta* to *Malaga* to refit, and having there made the necessary repairs, she sailed for *Bremen*, and in that voyage was lost.—The cargo had been insured at *Bremen*, for the original voyage from *Riga* to *Marseilles*, and the amount of that insurance was paid.—In an action on the above policy, the loss was averred to be by *capture*. On the trial, it was objected, not only that the plaintiffs could not recover, as for a loss by *capture* (a), but also that this was not an *insurable interest*; for if the insurers at *Bremen* were answerable for the expences that had been incurred in reclaiming the goods, the present contract would amount to a *double insurance*, and would be consequently void.—The plaintiffs were nonsuited upon these objections; and upon a motion to set aside the nonsuit, the court held both objections to be well founded.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The interest on which the plaintiffs effected this policy, was money laid out in reclaiming the *cargo*. The event insured was the arrival of the *ship* at *Marseilles*. A loss accrued upon the *cargo*, the underwriter is sued, and this loss is averred to be by *capture*. The ship was taken by the *Spaniards*, but afterwards restored, and in a condition to pursue her voyage, but was lost in *another voyage*.—This is a *wager policy*, and just the same as if the event insured had been the arrival of any other ship at *Marseilles*. The plaintiffs were interested in the *cargo alone*; but the event insured is the arrival of the *ship*, and not of the *cargo*. There

(a) As to this point *vid. inf. c. 16. l. 2.*

In wager policies the insured takes upon himself to perform all that the owner could have done.

was only a temporary capture, and though this, by construction, is such a loss, as that an insured *upon interest* is warranted in abandoning at the time, if he please; yet we must consider what the truth of the case was between those parties. Now this was a wager policy, and in such a case, there can be no abandonment. But what alone is a fatal objection to the plaintiff's claim is, that they did not attempt to pursue the voyage to *Marseilles*, which they might have done. Nor is it any excuse that they could no longer control her destination; for in wager policies the insured take upon themselves to perform all that the owners could have done in the same situation."

—Mr. Justice *Buller* said,—“The parties who were interested in the cargo *alone*, insured the *ship*, with which they had no concern. The goods might have arrived safe, and the ship have been lost, and then they would have been entitled to recover as for a total loss; though they had sustained no damage. On the other hand, if the ship had arrived, and the goods had been lost, they could have recovered nothing, though they would have really sustained a damage. The policy, therefore, is not adapted to the real truth of the case, but is a wager policy, and that alone is decisive upon the ground of merits (a).

The exception in the third section of the act, relating to effects imported from the dominions of *Spain* and *Portugal*, enables the insured upon that trade, though carried on in *British* ships, to recover without the proof of any interest.—Therefore where an insurance was made,

De Cossé v. Frith,
4 Bur. 1966, in-
fra c. 13. l. 4.

A policy “with-
out further proof
of interest than
the policy,” on
goods from *Lis-
bon*, is good,
within the 3d
section of the
act.

‘ Upon any of the packet boats that should sail from
‘ *Lisbon* to *Falmouth*, for one year, upon any kinds of
‘ goods or merchandize whatsoever; and it was agreed
‘ that the goods should be valued at the sum insured on such
‘ packet boat, without further proof of interest than the

(a) It seems extraordinary that, if this was taken to be a wager policy on the ship, the counsel for the plaintiff did not avail themselves of her being a *foreign ship*, to shew that a policy without interest upon her was not within the stat. 19. G. II. c. 37.

'policy; and to make no return of premium for want of interest, being on bullion or goods.' The insured had an interest in bullion on board one of the *Lisbon* packets, which was totally lost within the time mentioned in the policy.—The court held, that this was a policy of a peculiar sort, and good within the exception of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. s. 3. (a). That it was a mixed policy, partly a wager policy, and partly an open one; and being a valued policy, and fairly so, without fraud or misrepresentation, and the loss having happened, the insured was entitled to recover as for a total loss.

Though the insured has an interest in the thing insured, yet if it be small in comparison of the sum insured, the object of the contract will be considered, not as an indemnity, but as a wager; and its being made in the form of a special agreement, will not take it out of the statute.

A small interest will not take a case out of the statute.

Thus, where an action was brought by the surgeon of an *East Indiaman*, against a passenger, upon a special agreement, 'that, in consideration that the plaintiff had agreed to pay the defendant 20*l.* at the next port the ship should arrive at, the defendant undertook that the ship should save her passage to *China* that season; and in case she did not, he would pay the plaintiff 1000*l.* at the end of one month after the ship's arrival in the *Thames*.'—The defendant paid the 20*l.* into court.—At the trial it appeared, that the plaintiff had paid the defendant the 20*l.* at the next port; that the ship, being delayed below *Madras*, in consequence of a miscalculation of five days in the reckoning, and the monsoons setting in earlier than usual, she lost her passage; that the plaintiff had *some goods* on board, which were liable to suffer by the loss of the season; that while the matter remained doubtful, the plaintiff, by the desire of the captain, ~~would have~~ cancelled the agreement, but the defendant positively refused.—The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 980*l.*—Upon a motion for a new trial, it was contended, on the part of the de-

Kent v. Bird, Cowp. 583.

An agreement, in consideration of 20*l.* to pay 1000*l.*, if a ship did not save her passage to *China*, is a wager within the act, though the party have *some goods* on board.

fendant, that this was a wager insurance within the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37., and of this opinion were the court.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The statute, under general words, prohibits all contracts of insurance by way of *gaming* or *wagering*.—Here the plaintiff gave so much to the defendant, in consideration that if the ship should not save her passage to *China*, he was to receive 1000*l.* on her safe return to *England*.—This was clearly *wagering*; and, if it were allowed, all wager policies would be turned into this form, and the act be entirely defeated.”

How a valued policy is distinguishable from a wager.

Though a valued policy, when fairly made, is distinguishable from a wager in this, that the former is founded on real interest, the amount of which is agreed by the policy; in the latter, the insured has avowedly no interest at all: Yet, it must be owned that a valued policy often partakes of the nature both of a policy on interest and of a wager; for though it supposes a *bona fide* interest in the insured, this interest is not always expected to be exactly commensurate with the amount of the insurer's obligation. There is a real interest, it is true, but this, in many instances, falls far short of the nominal value in the policy; and it too often happens that, under colour of a small interest, and in the form of a valued policy, many insurances which are, in truth, mere wagers, are effected, and the beneficial purposes of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. thereby evaded.

How this is regulated by the French law.

By the law of *France*, the value in the policy is taken to be true, as against the insurer, till he prove the contrary (a). *Valin*, indeed, says that an insurer cannot be permitted to alledge fraud in the value specified in the policy, so as to be let in to shew a new valuation, without shewing that the value in the policy is at least *one fourth too high* (b). *Pothier*, on the contrary, holds that the value is only to be taken as just, till impeached by the insurer; who may be let in to prove the valuation to be

(a) *Valin* h. t. art. 64. p. 136. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 151. 159. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 271, 2. — (b) *Valin* sur art. 64. h. t. *Le Guidon*, ch. 2. art. 13.

too high, even where there is an express clause in the policy to preclude such inquiry; such clauses being always held to be illegal (a), the rule of the civil law being, *Conventio ne dolus præstetur, rata non est* (b).—If the exception to the valuation prevail, it either reduces the sum insured to the value of the goods, or, if fraud appear in the valuation, avoids the policy, and bars the demand of the insured: That is, if the insured *knew* that the goods were over-valued; or even where there is a *presumption* of fraud, arising from the concealment of a former insurance, the policy would be void (c). For by the ordinance of the marine (d), the insurance shall be presumed fraudulent, if the insured do not declare all he has insured; or even if he demand payment beyond the value of the effects insured. For the moment the insured would turn a loss to his own advantage, and seek to recover more than he put in risk, with whatever good faith he might have made the original valuation, he is guilty of fraud (e). But however the excess may have originated, it is incumbent on him to shew that it proceeded from some error on his part, or on the part of his agents. *Pothier* and *Valin* say, however, that when the transaction admits of doubt, the judges, to mitigate the severity of the law, are more inclined to impute the fault to error than to fraud; and therefore, unless fraud be made evident, a justification is readily received (f).

The effect of the valuation, before wager policies were held legal.

In *England*, before wager insurances obtained the sanction of the courts of law, the value inserted in a policy was not considered as conclusive: For though it is said in *Geddart v. Garrett* (g), that the law allows a man, having some interest in a ship or cargo, to insure more, or five times as much, because a merchant cannot tell how much, or how little his factor may have in readiness to load on board his ship; yet it is not said that, in case

(a) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 148. 156.—(b) *Dig.* lib. 13. tit. 6. n. 17.—(c) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 157.—(d) *Ord. de la mar.* b. t. art. 53, 54, 55.—(e) *Emerig.* vol 1. p. 271, 272.—(f) *Valin* sur art. 23. p. 67. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 78.—(g) 2 *Vern.* 270. sup. 123.

of loss, the insured would be permitted to recover more than the real amount of his interest: And in a subsequent case (a), in the year 1716, the Lord Chancellor ordered the insured, in a valued policy on goods, to discover what goods he really had on board.

After they were held legal.

After gaming policies, which must necessarily be in the form of valued ones, came to be considered as legal contracts, it could be of little importance whether the interest of the insured amounted to the value specified in the policy or not; because the contract would be equally binding on the underwriters, whether it should prove to be a policy on real interest or a mere wager. Therefore, before the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37., it could not have been thought necessary, at least in the opinion of those who maintain the legality of gaming policies, that the insured upon a valued policy should prove any interest at all.

The effect of the valuation since the statute.

After the passing of that act, the value in the policy, it would seem, ought only to have been considered as *prima facie* evidence of the amount of the interest of the insured. For though this value is admitted by the insurer; yet, as he admits it upon the mere representation of the insured, if he should afterwards find that this value was fictitious, and only meant as a cover for a wager, it cannot be supposed that he was so far concluded by his admission, as not to be at liberty to open the question of interest, to dispute the valuation, and shew by evidence that it was a mere evasion of the act. Even supposing the underwriter to be fully apprised that the valuation was fictitious, yet, as the statute was not made for his benefit, but for purposes of general policy, there can be no doubt of his being at liberty, if he think proper, to object the want of interest, in like manner as a rector may recover in ejectment against his own lessee, on the ground that the lease of the rectory has been avoided by his own non-residence, by force of the stat. 31 El. c. 20. (b).—Lord Mansfield in delivering the opinion of the court in the case of *Lewis v. Rucker* (c),

(a) *Le Pypre v. Farr*, 2 Vern. 716. sup. 124.—(b) Vid. *Frogmorton v. Scott*, 2 East 467.—(c) 2 Bur. 1171.

says;—"A valued policy is not to be considered as a wager, or like *interest or no interest*. If it were, it would be void by the stat. 19 G II. c. 37. The only effect of the valuation is, the fixing the amount of the prime cost, just as if the parties were to admit it at the trial. But in every argument, and for every other purpose, it must be taken that the value was fixed in such a manner as that the insured meant only to have an indemnity. If it be undervalued the merchant himself stands insurer for the surplus. If it be much over-valued, this must be done with a bad design; either to game, contrary to the statute, or with some view to a fraudulent loss.—Therefore, the insured can never be allowed in a court of justice to plead that he has greatly over-valued, or that his interest was a trifle only." Thus far his lordship strongly fortifies the idea that the value in the policy is only *prima facie* evidence of the interest of the insured, which may be impeached by the underwriters, if they see cause for doing so. But his lordship adds, "It is settled that, upon a valued policy, the merchant needs only to prove *some interest*, to take it out of the statute; because the adverse party has admitted the value; and if more were required, the agreed valuation would signify nothing. But if it should come out in proof that a man had insured 2000*l.*, and had interest on board to the value of a cable only; there never has been, and I believe there never will be, a determination, that, by such an evasion, the act of parliament may be defeated."—His lordship, however, must not be understood here to mean that, provided the insured has a real substantial interest on board, he may by a valued policy, insure to any amount, and recover the whole sum insured, however this may exceed the real value of the goods. He seems, indeed, to have been of opinion that the policy ought not to be deemed void, unless the value specified in it be a mere *cover for a wager*; but that where the insured has a real and substantial interest on board, though *much over-valued*, the contract will be valid; and the insured, in case of loss, entitled to recover to the amount of his real interest.

Yet,

The practice of permitting the insured upon a valued policy to recover the whole sum insured, upon a total loss, though his interest be less than that sum, is against the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37.

Yet, in the case of *Le Cras v. Hughes*, which has been already particularly noticed (a), the court of King's Bench declared that, in cases where the interest of the insured is less than the sum insured, in a valued policy, it is the constant usage, upon a *total loss*, to pay the whole sum insured; but, upon a *partial loss*, to consider it as an *open policy*, and to compute the loss according to the value of the *goods on board*.—And Lord Mansfield, in delivering the opinion of the court in that case, said,—“The constant usage since the stat. 19 G. II., in case of a total loss, has been to let the valuation stand, and the parties are estopped from altering it: But an average loss opens the policy. I will give you the origin of this: It was in a case of *Erasmus v. Banks*, Mich. 21 G. II., when Lord C. J. Lee said, *valuation at the sum insured is an estoppel in case of a total loss; but not so in the case of an average loss only*. On the 13th of December 1747, the same point came again before the court in *Smith v. Flexney*, and was so determined (b).”—That such has been the usage is unquestionably true, and that it has been sanctioned by the approbation of great and eminent judges, as in the cases alluded to, is equally true: But how it can be reconciled with the provisions of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37., is not quite so clear. This practice has a manifest tendency to interest the insured, if not in procuring fraudulent losses, at least in endeavouring to convert every loss into a *total one*.

So, a valued policy on a commission expected as consignee of a cargo, is not a wager.

So, where the interest was declared by the policy to be *on the commission of the insured*, as consignee of the cargo, valued at 1,500*l.*, Lord Kenyon is said to have expressed a very strong opinion that this was a good insurable interest (c).

A valued policy on profits expected on a cargo of goods is not within the act.

In the cases of *Grant v. Parkinson*, and *Barclay v. Cousins*, which have been already fully stated (d), it was determined that, upon a valued policy, it was incumbent on the insured, since the statute, to prove *some interest*, but

(a) Sup. 108.—(b) Vid. 2 *East* 113.—(c) *Flint v. Le Mesurier*, at N. P. after Hil. 1796, *Park*. 268.—(d) Sup. 97, 99.

that it was not necessary for him to go into the whole value; that *expected profits* were insurable; and that the meaning of a valued policy was, not to evade the act, but to avoid the difficulty of going into an exact account of the *quantum*.

In the following case it was determined that if the thing insured be of the estimated value *when the ship sails*, this will bind the underwriters; and that, in the case of a total loss, they will be liable to the amount of the value in the policy, though at the time such loss happened the thing insured be greatly diminished in value; and though part of it had been employed in the purchase of goods, which were preserved and sold at a good market, and not abandoned to the underwriters.

An insurance was made upon the ship *Indian*, and goods on board, valued at 6,600*l.*, 'at and from *Liverpool* to the coast of *Africa*; during her stay and trade there; and from thence to her port or ports of discharge, sale, and final destination in the *West Indies* and *America*.'—The insured were interested in the ship and out-fit, including provisions and stores to be taken in on the coast of *Africa* for the slaves, and also wages advanced to the crew; and these, according to the usual mode of valuing in such cases, amounted to the sum specified in the policy.—The ship having taken in a cargo of slaves on the coast of *Africa*, sailed for *Demerara*. In the course of her voyage thither, in calm weather, and in deep water, she met with a *shock* or *concussion*, described to resemble an *earthquake*, from which she received so much damage, that it was with the greatest difficulty she was kept afloat till she reached *Demerara*, where she was lashed alongside a hulk about fifty yards from the shore to keep her from sinking, and in attempting to remove her to the shore a few days after, she sunk. When she arrived at *Demerara* her stores were considerably expended. She had been destined thither, in the first instance, with directions to the captain to proceed to other places, in case he could not obtain certain prices there for the slaves; and, as the vessel was not built according to the regulations of the late act of parliament,

Shaw v. Fidler,
2 *East*. 109.

A ship and goods are insured in a valued policy, to *Africa* and the *West Indies*.

Part of the goods are employed in the purchase and sustenance of a cargo of slaves. The ship, after landing the slaves at the port of destination, but before the risk ended, is lost.—The insurers are liable to the full amount of the value in the policy; though this value be greatly diminished by the purchase and sustenance of the slaves, and though only the wreck of the ship be abandoned.

ment (a), he should sell her in the *West Indies*, provided he could get 1200*l.*, or even 1000*l.*, for her^s; otherwise he was to procure a freight for her to *Liverpool*. In fact, the vessel being surveyed at *Demerara*, was condemned and sold there for 388*l.* The slaves were also disposed of there; and though not, perhaps, so advantageously as they might have been disposed of elsewhere, yet still so as to amount to the average prices limited by the captain's instructions.—The insured, having abandoned, brought an action on the policy; and, upon the trial of the cause, the plaintiff obtained a verdict for the full amount of the sum insured.—The defendant moved for a new trial, upon the ground that the subject matter of the insurance was, at the time of the loss, so much reduced from the original valuation, that this ought not now to conclude the underwriters; that not only the real worth of the ship, by the owners own admission, was so much less than the stipulated value, but that the stores which were included in the insurance to the amount of 3,000*l.*, were profitably expended in the purchase and sustenance of the slaves, all of whom had been brought to an advantageous market; and therefore the subject matter of the insurance, as to so much, was not lost to the insured, but arrived at the place of destination; and so far, therefore, was the plaintiff from sustaining any loss in this respect, that he was in fact a gainer by the adventure; that the same observation would apply to about 400*l.* seamen's wages paid in advance, and included in the policy; and that, as the object of the voyage was accomplished, this could not be a total loss. —But the court determined that this must be considered as a total loss.—Lord *Kensington* said;—"It is not contended that there is any fraud in this case, but only that the underwriter is not bound by the valuation in the policy. It is of little consequence what my opinion would have been upon the subject of valued policies in the year 1746, immediately after the stat. 19 G. II. passed; for

(a) One of the acts for regulating the slave trade, which was to take place after the voyage in question had commenced.

they were very soon after decided to be legal by Lord C. J. *Lee*, and from that time to the present such policies have been sanctioned by one uniform course of decisions. All this is now supposed to be wrong; and the rules by which this and other commercial nations have so long regulated their dealings are now wished to be disturbed; but I will not lend my aid to open such a new and wide door of litigation. If we were to enter into the calculations which have been contended for, every valued policy would be to be opened. Every man's meal on board a ship would take from the value of the original out-fit. Is this to be endured? Will good faith admit of it? Where is the line to be drawn between a greater and a less diminution of the value? Therefore, as the rule and practice of valued policies have been acted upon since the passing of the act, I am not one who wish *quieta movere*."—The other judges concurred in these sentiments.—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“The statute was made in order to prohibit mere wagering policies by persons insuring who have no interest in the thing insured. The effect of a valued policy is, not to conclude the underwriter from shewing that the insured had no interest, and that in fact it is a mere wager policy within the statute; but, to avoid disputes as to the insured's interest, the parties agree that it shall be estimated at a certain value. Here it is not pretended that the subject matter of the insurance was not at first of the value estimated in the policy. Would it not be sufficient in the case of an open policy, to prove that, at the time the ship sailed, the thing insured was of such a value? Is not that the period to look to, and not to the state of the thing at the time of the loss happening?”—Mr. Justice *Le Blanc* said,—“In every insurance upon ship and out-fit, the value of the property must be continually diminishing; and if the loss happen at the latter end of the voyage, as in this case, no doubt the property must be considerably deteriorated by the usual wear and tear; and yet it is never objected that the underwriter is not liable for the original value.—The rule having been so long laid down as to valued policies, it is now too late to open it again.”

If the thing insured be of the value in the policy, at the time the ship sails, it is sufficient.

This

Observations on
this case.

In what case
goods taken on
board in the
course of the
voyage are pro-
tected by the
policy.

This very singular case challenges particular notice.— Had the insurance been on the ship and her ordinary stores only, the original valuation, having been fair when made, would unquestionably have been conclusive, however the one might have been deteriorated in value by wear and tear, or the other diminished by the ordinary consumption of the voyage. But here, beside the ordinary stores, the ship sailed with a *cargo* on board, to the value of 3,000*l.*, which was employed in the purchase of slaves on the coast of *Africa*, and their sustenance during their voyage to *Demerara*; and these slaves, after the accident happened, and before the ship sunk, were safely landed at *Demerara*, and there sold to advantage. But it is a settled principle that, where an insurance is upon goods generally, if the ship touch at any port in the course of her voyage, at which she has liberty to trade, and there unload the goods, and take others on board, either in exchange for them, or purchased with the proceeds of them, these goods newly taken on board are substituted in the policy for those that were landed; and the insurers become liable to the risk upon them in like manner as upon the original goods (*a*). Hence it would seem that the slaves taken on board on the coast of *Africa*, which were purchased and fed with the produce of the original cargo, became part of the subject matter of the insurance, and were protected by the policy, to the extent of the sum insured, in the voyage from *Africa* to *America*. If this were so, then it would seem that the insured had no right to claim as for a total loss upon an abandonment of the ship only (*b*). Upon a valued policy the underwriters are not deprived of the benefit of salvage.

(*a*) *Vahn* sur art. 27. h. t. p. 78.; *Emerig.* t. 2. p. 38. *Patbier* h. t. n. 63.—(*b*) *Vid. inf.* ch. 13. f. 4.

Sect. III.

Of Re-insurance.

A POLICY of insurance being once signed, the underwriters are bound by the terms of it; nor can they be released from their contract, without the consent of the insured (a). But if an underwriter repent of what he has done; if he be afraid to encounter the risk he has engaged to run, or find that he has incautiously bound himself to a greater amount than he may be able to discharge, he may shift it, or part of it, from himself to other insurers, by causing a *re-insurance* to be made on the same risk, upon the best terms he can, and the new insurers will be responsible to him in case of loss, to the amount of the re-insurance (b). But they will be answerable to him only, and not to the original insured, who can have no remedy against them, in case of loss, even though the original insurer become insolvent; because there is no privity of contract between them and the original insured. If, therefore, the original insurer fail, so that the original insured receive only a dividend, however small, the re-insurer can gain nothing by this, but must pay the full amount of the loss to the original insurer (c). *Affecurator post factam affecurationem potest se affecurari facere ab alio affecuratore; et iste secundus affecurator tenetur pro affecuratione facta à primo, et ad solvendum omne totum quod primus affecurator solverit, et ista secunda affecuratio valet (d).*

If an insurer desire to be relieved from his responsibility, he may re-insure the same risk.

But the re-insurer is only responsible to the original insurer and not to the original insured.

Thus stands the law on this subject in most of the maritime states of *Europe*. But in this country it was found, about the time when the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. was made, that this mode of insurance, though perfectly reasonable, when confined to its proper object, had been

But in *England*, by the 19 G. II. c. 37. §. 4. re-insurances are prohibited, except in case of the insolvency or death of the original insurer.

(a) *Emerig. tom. i. n. 8. Roccus, h. t. n. 12.*—(b) *Vid. Le Guidon, c. 2. art. 19, 20. Valin. h. t. art. 20, p. 65. Pothier, h. t. n. 96.*—(c) *Vid. Emerig. tom. i. p. 248.*—(d) *Roccus, h. t. n. 12.*

perversed from its original use, and was employed as a mode of speculating in the rise and fall of premiums; and the legislature foreseeing that it might be used as a colour for wager policies, and a means of evading the provisions of that act, declares, (sect. 4.) 'That it shall not be lawful to make re-insurance, unless the insurer shall be insolvent, become bankrupt (a), or die; in either of which cases, such insurer, his executors, administrators, or assigns, may make re-insurance to the amount of the sum before by him insured; provided it be expressed in the policy to be a re-insurance (b).'

This clause extends not only to *British*, but also to foreign ships.

This clause, having no words to confine its operation to ships belonging to *British* subjects, like the first clause of the act, restraining insurances *interest or no interest* (c), extends to re-insurances made in *England* on foreign ships, even where the first insurance was made abroad. This has been so determined; though it is observable that the following case, in which that question was made, was not the species of re-insurance above described, and to which only the statute refers, but a *second insurance*, effected on account of the *original insured* (d). The point, however, was determined by the court.

Andres v. Fletcher, 2 T. R. 161.

Therefore a ship insured at *Marseilles* cannot be again insured here, unless the first insurer be insolvent or dead.

That was the case of an insurance made in *London*, on a *French* vessel, which had before been insured at *Marseilles* for the same sum, by an insurer there, who, at the time of subscribing the second policy, was living and solvent, and who, in fact, afterwards paid the sum insured by him.—Upon this case the court determined that the latter policy was void by the words of the act; for

-
- (a) By the 19 G. II. c. 32. s. 2. 'When the obligor in any bottomry or respondentia bond, and the insurer in any policy of insurance, becomes bankrupt before any loss happens, the obligee in such bond, and the insured in such policy of insurance, may prove their debts and losses under the commission, and receive a dividend; and the bankrupts shall be discharged from such debt, in like manner as if the loss had happened before such bankruptcies.'—Vid. *inf.* s. 6. art. 5.—
 (b) Vid. *Edgar v. Fowler*, 3 East 222. *inf.* ch. 8. s. 2.—
 (c) Sup. 127.—(d) Vid. *inf.* Lord Mansfield's distinction between a re-insurance and a double insurance.

though

though the first clause of the act, which prohibits insurances, ‘*interest or no interest*,’ is confined to insurances on *British* ships, yet the fourth section being general, and without any such restrictive clause, every re-insurance in this country, either by *British* subjects or foreigners, on *British* or foreign ships, is declared void by the statute, unless the first insurer be insolvent, become bankrupt, or die.

There are two other kinds of re-insurance; the one where the insured insures the solvency of the insurers; the other, where he makes a new insurance in consequence of the insolvency of an insurer during the continuance of the risk.

Two other kinds of re-insurance.

The insurance of the solvency of an insurer is permitted and practised in some foreign countries (*a*); but it seems never to have been in use among us; not, perhaps, as has been supposed (*b*), because the solvency of an underwriter is not an insurable interest, or that such an insurance would be deemed a wager; but, more probably, because the insolvency of an insurer seldom happens in *England*; besides, a *double insurance* would better answer the end proposed.

Insurance of the solvency of the insurer.

In *France*, if an insurer fail during the continuance of the risk, the insured may insist on the dissolution of the contract, unless the creditors of the insolvent insurer, in order to entitle themselves to receive the premium, (which is rarely paid in that country till after the risk is ended), will give security for the payment of the sum insured, in case of loss. At *Marseilles*, (for in *France* different practices prevail in different provinces), the insured, in such case, sues the insolvent insurer till he obtains a sentence authorizing him to re-insure at the expence of the insolvent, which he may deduct from the stipulated premium, if it be not paid, and if this be insufficient, then out of the effects of the insolvent (*c*).

The practice in *France* in case of the insolvency of an insurer.

(*a*) Vid. *L. Guidon*, c. 2. art. 20. Ord. of *Louis XIV.* h. t. art. 20. *Valin*, h. t. 65, 2 *Magens*, 190. 419.— (*b*) *Park*, 280.— (*c*) *Vain*, h. t. art. 20. p. 65. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 190. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 254.

SECT. IV.

Of Double Insurance.

How double insurance differs from re-insurance.

Though in nature of a wager, it is not void: But the insured can only recover one satisfaction on both policies.

Newby v. Reed,
at N. P. 1 Bl.
416.

Those who pay the loss may recover a rateable proportion from the other insurers.

DOUBLE insurance is where the insured makes two insurances on the same risk, and the same interest. It differs from re-insurance in this, that it is made by the *insured*, with a view of receiving a double satisfaction in case of loss; whereas a re-insurance is made by a former insurer, his executors or assigns, to protect himself and his estate from a risk to which they were liable by the first insurance. A re-insurance, except in the cases permitted by the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. § 4. (a) is absolutely void; but a double insurance, though it be made with a view to a double satisfaction in case of loss, and is therefore in nature of a wager, is not void by the law of *England*. The two policies are considered as making but *one insurance*. They are good to the extent of the value of the effects put in risk; but the insured shall not be permitted to recover a double satisfaction. He may sue the underwriters on both the policies, but he can only recover the real amount of his loss, to which all the underwriters on both shall contribute in proportion to their several subscriptions. And therefore, if he should content himself with suing only on one of the policies, the underwriters on that policy may recover a rateable contribution from those on the other (b).

This

(a) Sup. 129. — (b) *Le Guidon*, ch. 2. art. 16 & 18. ch. 3. art. 3. lays it down that if there be several policies on the same cargo, those of prior date shall be preferred. If there be an over insurance in one policy, it shall not be reduced rateably upon all, but the latter insurers, whether for gain or loss, shall withdraw their subscriptions, on receiving one half *per cent*. The Ord. of *Amsterdam*, art. 20, 23. agrees with the law of *England* in this, that all the insurers, upon several policies, shall participate equally in profit and loss — The Ord. of *Louis XIV.* h. t. art. 23, 24, 25. declares that if the sum insured by a *single policy*, without fraud, exceed the value of the goods, the policy shall be good to the extent of their true value; and in case of loss, every insurer shall contribute

This was not always the rule, as we shall see presently; but it was so determined by Lord *Mansfield*, in the year 1763; and it was then agreed to be the course of practice, that, upon a double insurance, though the insured is not entitled to two satisfactions, he may, in an action upon the first policy, recover the whole sum insured, and leave the defendants therein to recover a rateable contribution from the other insurers.

The two following cases will also serve to shew Lord *Mansfield's* sentiments more fully on this subject.

The first was a valued policy for a ship and freight, and on goods, as interest might appear, from *Newfoundland* to *Dominica*, and from thence to the port of discharge in the *West Indies*.—The ship sailed from *St. John's* on the 17th of *December* 1775, and the plaintiff declared as for a total loss. The defendant who had underwritten for 200*l.* paid into court only 124*l.*, on a supposition that the underwriters on a former policy should bear a share of the loss. The plaintiff had originally insured at *Liverpool*, on a voyage 'from *Newfoundland* to *Barbadoes* and the *Leeward Islands*,' with an exception of *American* captures; but the plaintiff afterwards, for the purpose of securing himself against captures, and having altered the course of his voyage,

Rogers v. Davis,
at N. P. in Mich.
17 G. III.
Beawes, lex
merc. 242.

contribute in proportion to his subscription, and return the premium upon the surplus. If the insurance be by several policies, and the first amount to the value of the goods, it shall stand alone, and the underwriters upon the others shall be discharged, and return the premium, subject to the usual deduction.—If the first policy be not sufficient to cover the full value, the second shall answer for the deficiency.—If there be several dates to the several subscriptions in the same policy, each date makes a separate contract, and ascertains the order of the liability of each underwriter. But if several policies have the same date, they make but one policy. Vid. *Valin* sur art. 24, &c. p. 69. *Potbier*, h. t. n. 77, *Glirac*, p. 243. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 163.—Vid. also *Mal. lex merc.* 118. where he lays it down that if the effects be over insured, the loss shall fall on the first underwriters, and the rest shall return their premium, deducting one half per cent. This, he says, is founded on the custom of merchants, which in matters of insurance is more to be regarded than the law. Vid. *inf.* c. 14. l. 1. n. 1.

made the present insurance. The plaintiff now insisted, that he was entitled to the full amount of his insurance against the defendant, and not to any part from the *Liverpool* underwriters, because the voyage now insured was different from that insured at *Liverpool* (a). There was a verdict for the plaintiff for his full demand, *leaving the defendant at liberty to bring an action against the Liverpool underwriters, if he thought fit.*

Davis v. Gildart,
at N. P. after
East. 17 G III.
Removes ub. sup.

An underwriter who has paid a loss upon one policy, may sue the underwriters on the other for contribution.

Accordingly in the *Easter* term following, *Davis*, who had been the defendant in the last action, brought an action against the present defendant, who was an underwriter upon one of the *Liverpool* policies, to recover a contribution for the loss which the present plaintiff had been obliged to pay.—It was agreed by both parties to admit, that on the *London* policy, (which was the subject of the former action), 2,200*l.* were insured; that on the two *Liverpool* policies 1,700*l.* were insured; that the merchant was interested to the amount of 500*l.* on the ship, 300*l.* on the freight, and 1,400*l.* on the cargo; that the plaintiff had paid 200*l.* loss, and 47*l.* for the costs. The whole interest was 2,200*l.*, and the whole insurance was 3,900*l.*—The question was, whether the defendant was liable to contribute any thing, and what. It was insisted on the part of the defendant, that the insurance in *London* was an illegal *re-insurance*; and therefore the plaintiff might have made a good defence in an action brought against him: And if so, he could not now recover over, against the defendant, in the present action.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The question seems to be whether the insured has not two securities for the loss that has happened. If so, can there be a doubt that he may bring his action against either? It is like the case of two securities; where, if all the money be recovered against one of them, he may recover a proportion from the other. Then this would bring it to the question, whether the second insurance be void as a *re-insurance*. But a re-

(a) This fact does not seem to have been much regarded either in this or the following case.

insurance is a contract made by the insurer to secure himself; *and this is only a double insurance.*"

Yet, from the following decision it will appear, that, in the case of an *over-insurance*, that is, where, in a single policy, the sums subscribed amount to much more than the value of the effects insured, the first underwriters on the policy were formerly holden to be answerable to the extent of the loss, and the subsequent ones discharged.

Formerly in the case of an *over insurance*, the first underwriters were liable to the extent of the loss, and the rest discharged.

To an action brought on a policy on goods, the defendant pleaded a *custom of merchants*,—"That where a policy is subscribed by a number of underwriters, and the goods are not equal in value to the sums subscribed, the underwriters, in case of loss, shall be liable in the order in which they subscribe; and that the remaining underwriters shall be exonerated from all responsibility, and return the premium, deducting one half *per cent.*" The plaintiff replied that this was so, if none were insolvent, and traversed the custom as pleaded.—It is stated that, at the trial, the custom was proved plainly and fully, "*by all the Exchange*;" and the court held the custom reasonable, and judgment was given for the defendant.

The *African Company v Bull*, 1 Show. 132. *Gilb.* 238.

It appears from the argument of this case, that such insurances were made when a merchant did not know whether his factor would send home any goods, or how much.—But the custom here proved *by all the Exchange* seems now to be forgotten; for at present the underwriters, upon a policy in which there is an over-insurance, would be held all liable in proportion to their several subscriptions, without any regard to priority of dates.

Though the same person cannot, upon a double insurance of his full interest, by different policies, recover more than one satisfaction; yet, according to the following case, if the same person be not to have the benefit of both policies in all events, it cannot be deemed a double insurance; and different persons may insure the same thing upon distinct interests, to the amount of such interests, even to the full value of the thing insured, and each may recover to that amount (a).

But different persons may insure the same thing, upon distinct interests, and each recover the full value of the thing insured.

(a) Vid. sup. ch. 4. § 1.

Godin & al. v. Lond. Assur. Co. 1 Bur. 489. 1 Bl. 103.

A., at *Petersburgh*, being indebted to *B.*, in *London*, ships goods for *B.*, and promises to send him the bill of lading; and *B.* insures 1,400*l.* on these goods. Afterwards *A.* informs *B.* that he has shipped goods for *London*, and desires him to insure, and he insures 900*l.*, in all 2,300*l.* on goods. After this, *A.* having shipped the goods, indorses the bills of lading to *C.* at *Petersburgh*, who sends them to *D.* his correspondent in *London*, with directions to insure the whole. *D.* accordingly insures 2,300*l.* for *C.* with different insurers, and gives them notice of the former insurances on the same goods by *B.* The goods are totally lost in the voyage.—*C.* shall recover on his insurance the whole sum insured, notwithstanding *B.*'s insurance, who had also an insurable interest.

Thus: *Meybohm*, a merchant of *Petersburgh*, corresponded with *Amyand* of *London*, to whom he was considerably indebted. *Amyand* sent a ship to *Petersburgh* for goods, which *Meybohm* sent, and promised to send the bill of lading by the next post, but never sent it. *Amyand* insured 1,400*l.* with private underwriters on these goods; on or before the 28th of *September*. In *October* he received a letter from *Meybohm*, dated the 7th of *September*, informing him that he should send him goods as *per* invoice, and desiring him to insure; and 900*l.* were insured in consequence. The two insurances, therefore, amounted to 2,300*l.* on goods. After sending this letter, *Meybohm* indorsed the bills of lading to one *Tamefz*, at *Petersburgh*, who sent them indorsed to *Uthoff*, his correspondent in *London*, desiring him to insure the whole. *Uthoff* having received the bills of lading, insured with the defendants, (the *London Assurance Company*), for 2,300*l.* "at and from the *Sound* to *London*," acknowledging that there had been a former consignment of the goods, and an insurance thereon, and that both parties were willing to be safe.—In the voyage, the ship and cargo were totally lost.—An action was brought by the plaintiffs, as trustees of *Tamefz*, against the defendants on their policy; and the question was, whether they were entitled to recover the whole, or only half the sum insured.—The court unanimously determined, that the plaintiff was intitled to recover the whole.—Lord *Mansfield* delivered the opinion of the court to this effect.—"As between the insurer and the insured, upon the foot of commutative justice merely, the insurers were bound to pay the insured the whole; for they have received a premium for the whole risk. If the insured be to receive but one satisfaction, natural justice says, that the several insurers shall, all of them, contribute *pro rata*, to satisfy that loss against which they have insured. When a man makes a double insurance of the same thing, by distinct policies, yet he shall only receive a single satisfaction for the same loss. And this holds, though one or both the policies be in the names of other persons; for the same person is

to have the benefit of both. And if the whole should be recovered from one, he ought to stand in the place of the insured, to receive contribution from the other, who was equally liable to pay the whole. But in this case, if *Tamefz* was not to have the benefit of both policies in all events, then it never can be considered as a double insurance. Supposing, as it has been said, that by the indorsement of the bills of lading, *Tamefz* stood in the place of *Meybohm*, in respect of the insurances; yet *Amyand* had an interest of his own, and insured 1,900*l.* on ship and goods, prior to any directions from *Meybohm*. Various persons may insure various interests on the same bottom; as one person for goods, another for bottomry, &c. Here *Amyand* had a *lien* on these goods, as a factor, to whom a balance was due; and he had the sole interest in the ship, which was a part of the things insured. Besides, *Amyand* does not admit that the insurance in *October* was made on account of *Meybohm*: On the contrary, he insists upon it for his own benefit. But supposing *Amyand* had made the insurance for *Meybohm*, merely as his agent, yet, even then, *Tamefz* can neither come against *Amyand*'s underwriters, nor come at his policy: For *Amyand*, the factor of *Meybohm*, has possession of the policy, and appears to have been his creditor upon the balance of accounts. And it is now a settled point, that a factor to whom a balance is due, has a *lien* on all goods of his principal, so long as they remain in his possession (a). So that *Amyand*, even as a factor to *Meybohm*, and making the insurance on his account, is yet intitled to retain the policy, having a *lien* upon it, while it is in his possession, for the balance due to him from *Meybohm*.—And *Tamefz* must have paid this balance, before he could have gotten *Amyand*'s policy out of his hand; and consequently he was far from being intitled to it as a *cestui que trust*, absolutely and entirely.—But even if this were doubtful, yet *Tamefz* insured under the express declaration of his suspicion that there might have been a former insurance upon the goods by some other person; but desired to in-

If the whole loss be recovered from one insurer, he is intitled to contribution from the others.

But various persons may insure various interests in the same thing.

A factor to whom a balance is due, has a *lien* on all goods of his principal in his hands, and may retain the policy.

(a) Vid. *Kruger v. Wilcox*, *Amb.* 252.

Distinction between two insurances on different interests, and a double insurance.

sure the whole for his own security; and to this the defendants agreed, and took the whole premium. It would therefore be neither just or reasonable, that *Tamesz* should recover only half his loss from the defendants, and be turned round for the other half to the uncertain event of a long and expensive litigation. *Tamesz*, therefore, has a right to recover the whole loss from the defendants. For though here be two insurances, yet it is not a double insurance. A double insurance is, where a full value of interest is insured on different policies by the same man. Two persons may insure different interests, in the same thing, each for the whole value. *Tamesz* is entitled to receive the whole from the defendants, whatever shall become of *Amyand's* policy; and they will have a right, in case he can claim any thing under *Amyand's* policy, to stand in his place, for a contribution to be paid by the other underwriters. Therefore, upon these grounds, in every light in which the case can be put, we are all clearly of opinion, that the verdict is right *for the whole*."

Observations on the above case.

It is not easy to reconcile this decision with the principle of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. (a). It cannot be contended that the policy could have had a validity in the hands of *Amyand* which it would not have had in the hands of *Meybohm*. But in the hands of *Meybohm*, after he had parted with all his interest in the goods to *Tamesz*, it would have been an insurance without interest. *Tamesz* having insured the goods on his own account, could have no occasion for the policy effected by *Amyand*; and if he had procured it either from *Meybohm* or *Amyand*, it would, in his hands, I conceive, have rendered his own policy a double insurance; and he could have recovered on both but one satisfaction. The defendants taking the premium with notice of the other policy, could not give validity to an insurance without interest.

A defendant sued on a policy may oblige the plaintiff to declare how much he has insured in the whole.

To enable the defendant, in an action on a policy, to discover whether there be a double insurance, he may, by the authority of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. § 6. call upon the plaintiff to declare in writing, what sums he has insured in the whole, and how much he has borrowed on bottomry or respondentia.

CHAP. V.

Of the Ship.

HAVING shewn who may be parties to this contract, what may be the subject matter of it, and what interest the insured must have therein; we are next to examine what belongs to the ship or vessel which is to perform the voyage insured.

In every marine insurance the ship must be an object of great interest to both parties. From the nature of the contract, there are certain stipulations or conditions implied in it, relative to the ship, which the insured is bound to fulfil. These are, that the ship shall be sea worthy; that she shall not be changed, unless from necessity, without the consent of the insurers; and that she shall be employed, conducted, and navigated with reasonable skill, and according to law. These matters which embrace all that it will be necessary here to offer on the subject of the ship, will be considered under the following heads:

- I. *Of the Sea-worthiness of the Ship;*
- II. *Of changing the Ship;*
- III. *Of Insurances on Goods in "Ship or Ships;"*
- IV. *Of the Employment and Conduct of the Ship.*

Sect. I.

Of the Sea-worthiness of the Ship.

THERE is, in every insurance, whether on ship or goods, an implied warranty that the ship shall be sea-worthy when she sails on the voyage insured; that is, that she shall be "*tight, staunch, and strong, properly manned, provided with all necessary stores, and in all respects fit for the intended voyage.*"—The consideration of the insurance

There is an implied warranty in every policy that ship shall be sea-worthy.

insurance is paid, to the intent that the insured may be indemnified against certain contingencies; and it supposes that the insurer may gain the premium: But if the ship be incapable of performing the voyage, there is no possibility of his gaining the premium; and in that case, the contract, on his part, would be without consideration, and consequently void.—The insurer undertakes to indemnify the insured against the *extraordinary and unforeseen perils of the sea*; and it would be absurd to suppose that any man would insure against those perils, but in the confidence that the ship is in a condition to encounter the *ordinary perils* to which every ship must be exposed in the usual course of the voyage proposed.

There are different degrees of sea-worthiness, which if known, may affect the rate of premium.

But nothing relative to sea-worthiness need be disclosed unless required.

It is true that there are different degrees of sea-worthiness. One ship may fairly be thought capable of performing a given voyage, and may, to a common intent, be deemed sea-worthy with reference to that voyage. Another may be in a condition to encounter much greater stresses of weather, and consequently to survive where the former must perish. No underwriter, knowing the difference between these two ships, would insure each at the same premium. And yet, the implied warranty renders it unnecessary, in the first instance, to disclose any thing that forms an ingredient in sea-worthiness; for it is a rule that no representation needs to be made to the underwriters of any thing which the insured warrants (a). If information be particularly called for, the insured is bound to disclose truly what he knows upon the subject: But, provided the ship be in a condition to encounter the ordinary perils of the intended voyage, it is unnecessary to communicate, unsought, a circumstance which, if disclosed, might have the effect of enhancing the premium (b).

It is not necessary that the ship should be sea-worthy till she sails.

It is not necessary that the ship should, in all cases, be sea-worthy from the moment the policy attaches and the risk commences. By the words "*at and from*," the risk on a ship is often made to commence while she is in

(a) *Per Cur. Shoolbred v. Nutt*, inf. ch. 11. f. 9. — (b) *Vid. Heywood v. Rodgers*, inf. ch. 11. f. 2.

dock, and undergoing the requisite repairs to render her sea-worthy, and capable of performing the intended voyage. If the ship, at the time the risk commences, be in such a state as her situation then requires, that is sufficient; nor is it necessary that she should be completely sea-worthy till she sails on the voyage insured.

Thus: A ship was insured 'at and from Liverpool to the coast of Africa;' but, at the time the policy was effected, the ship was not in a condition to go to sea, but was, in fact, then undergoing material repairs:—In an action to recover a loss upon this policy, the underwriters contended that, as the risk described in it was *at* as well as *from*, if the ship was not sea-worthy, from whatever cause, when the policy attached, the contract was void; and that any repairs done afterwards, though they rendered her completely sea-worthy at the time of sailing, would not cure that defect.—But Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, said, that, "Under the words, "*at and from*," it is sufficient if the ship be sea-worthy *at the time of sailing*; for, from the nature of the thing, the ship, while *at* the place, was probably undergoing some repair."

Forbes v. Wilson,
at N. P. after
Easter 1800.

By the law of *France* it is directed, that every merchant ship, before her departure from the place of her out-fit, shall be surveyed by certain officers appointed for that purpose, and reported to be sea-worthy, '*en bon état de navigation*;' and that, previous to her return, before she takes her homeward cargo on board, she shall be again surveyed.—*Valin* (a) shews how little confidence is to be placed in these surveys, which, he says, are only made upon the external parts, for the ship is not unsheathed, and therefore the inward and hidden defects are not discovered.—Indeed it seems to be much better to leave the *validity of the policy* to depend on the sea-worthiness of the ship, to be ascertained after a loss has happened, by an investigation of the true cause of such loss, than to permit so important a question to be decided by the report of mercenary officers. A ship may, to all appearance, be perfectly capable of performing a voyage, and it is only after a loss has happened that her latent

Previous
Surveys.

What credit due
to them.

(a) Tit. *frat.* art. 12.

defects are discovered, and her true state at the time of her departure comes to be known. Nor is the survey thus made by the *French* conclusive to prove that the ship at her departure was sea-worthy. It only raises a *presumption* that she was so; but it still remains open to the insurer to shew the contrary.

A ship shall be presumed not to have been sea-worthy, unless it be made appear that her disability arose from some other cause.

As the insurer is only liable for losses arising from the *extraordinary and unforeseen perils of the voyage*, if the ship become innavigable, or incapable of proceeding on the voyage insured, all the writers agree that the *presumption* shall be that this proceeded from the age and rottenness, or other defect of the ship, unless it be made *appear* to have been occasioned by sea damage or some unforeseen accident (a). The reason assigned for this is, that by the marine law, an *indefinite* innavigability is never classed among the perils to which the insurer is liable; because a thing so subject to be injured by time and the use which is made of it, cannot be supposed always to retain its original state; and that, though a ship may, at the time of her departure, appear capable of performing the voyage insured; yet, if the voyage should prove longer than usual, her internal defects will sometimes become apparent, from time, from the pressure of the cargo, and from the action of the sea, without any extraordinary accident.

Casaregis (b), in support of this doctrine, cites the following decision of the *Rota of Florence*.—A ship, with a cargo of goods on board, sailed from *Cadix* for *Amsterdam*; and when she was off *Cape St. Vincent*, she was forced by a strong north wind to put into *St. Croix de Teneriff*, to avoid foundering. Being there surveyed, she was, by the consul, pronounced to be *innavigable*.—The insured insisted that the above circumstances amounted to sufficient evidence of the loss, which could only be attributed to the contrary winds, which, having caused

(a) *Targa*, ch. 60. p. 256. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 66. *Casaregis* diff. 143. n. 132. *Valin*, art. 28, 29. & 46. h. t. p. 76. In p. 98. he says, "La presumption est, que le mauvais état du navire vient de son propre vice."—(b) *Loc. cit.*

the ship to spring a leak, had rendered her innavigable.—The insurers replied that the insured were bound to give *conclusive* evidence of the loss; that the witnesses examined by the consul did not depose that the loss was occasioned by the contrary winds; that the leak did not shew a right to abandon, because in the course of a voyage it sometimes happens to the best ships to spring a leak, without any extraordinary sea-damage.—The judges of the *Rata* adopted these reasons, and decided in favour of the insurers. Their judgment was delivered to the effect following:—The question being, whether the ship had been declared innavigable on account of the violence of the contrary winds, or on account of some peculiar and inherent defect, *it has appeared to us*, that this being the case of innavigability, it ought rather to be attributed to the inherent defect of the ship. The bad condition of the ship is *presumed* to proceed from an ancient, certain, inherent, natural, and constantly-operating cause, rather than from the effect of the winds, which is accidental and extrinsic (a). Decay and rottenness are reputed the most active and most powerful causes from which innavigability can proceed (b). A storm is not deemed a sufficient cause of a loss, if such loss can be shewn to have proceeded from the inherent vice of the thing insured. The mere *possibility* that the injury has not been occasioned by the sea, is enough to shew that the proof of the insured is insufficient (c).

Emerigon, however, holds that, in consideration of the previous survey, the presumption that the ship was seaworthy when she sailed shall prevail till the insurers shew the contrary; and he cites a number of decisions of the admiralty court of *Marseilles* upon this point, from which it would seem that no evidence of the rottenness, or of

(a) *Totum damnum referri debet cause antiquiori, originali, certa, et intrinseca fragilitatis et vetustatis navis, n. 22.*—(b) *Vitium intrinsecum infectionis et corruptionis reputandum sit pro causa potentiori, et majoris activitatis, ex predictis, cui propterea principaliter effectus est attribuendus, n. 24.*—(c) *Sola possibilitas in contrarium sufficit, ut probatio non dicatur sufficiens, n. 36, &c.*

the decayed state in which the ship may be found *after she sails*, is sufficient to countervail the report of the previous survey (a).

And it must be owned that, in practice, though the rule, as laid down by the writers above cited, ought never to be lost sight of, many difficulties may arise from too strict an observance of it. Where a ship is lost, or is condemned in the course of the voyage, as being incapable of proceeding to her place of destination, and this cannot be ascribed to stress of weather or any accident in the voyage, the fair and natural presumption is, that she was not sea-worthy; and then it is incumbent on the insured to shew that, at the time of her departure, she was in fact sea-worthy. This presumption is founded upon principles of public policy, which require that the ship, at the time of her departure, shall be in such a state as to be capable of encountering the ordinary perils of the voyage insured; and this must be the true meaning of the words, "*tight, staunch, and strong*," used in charter-parties. However perfect a ship may be in herself, yet, if, from the nature of her construction, or any other cause, she be incapable of performing the voyage insured, with the proposed cargo on board, she is not sea-worthy. She must be, in all respects, fit for the trade in which she is meant to be employed. And it is a wholesome rule that the insured shall be held to pretty strict and cogent proof of this. It is also a wholesome rule, that this proof shall not only be cogent and strong to shew the ship's sufficiency at the time she sailed, but also that the insured shall bring forward *all* the evidence which he has upon the subject; particularly

(a) *Valin*, art. 29. h. t. seems to have these decisions in his mind when discussing this point. He says,—*On cite sur ce sujet plusieurs arrêts d' Aix et des sentences de Marseilles contre les assureurs; mais ces préjugés, pour être juridiques, doivent avoir été rendus sur des preuves que les navires avoient été rendus innavigables par fortune de mer. Cependant qu' est ce que ces preuves pour l'ordinaire? Des procès verbaux frauduleux de la part des capitaines, toujours disposés à favoriser les armateurs, sans égard à la vérité et la justice.*

what relates to the state she was in when the loss happened, or when she was condemned as unfit to proceed on the voyage. If any thing should be withheld which the insured might have produced, it will always throw great suspicion on his case. Too much often rests on the single testimony of the master, always inclined to favour his employers.—If, on the other hand, it appear from the facts of the case, that the loss may be fairly attributed to sea-damage or any other unforeseen misfortune, but yet the insurers mean to alledge that the ship at her departure was not sea-worthy, the *onus probandi* will lie on them. This seems to be the simplest rule; and the simplest rules are always the best, particularly in matters of commerce.

If the loss or disability of the ship can be ascribed to sea-damage, the proof of unseaworthiness lies on the insurers.

The reports of persons employed to survey the ship, and sentences of condemnation by vice-admiralty courts abroad, are frequently offered as evidence to prove the sufficiency or insufficiency of the ship. But such reports, though made upon oath, and such sentences though stamped by a sort of judicial authority, are not admissible evidence to prove the *facts* contained in them; because better evidence, namely, that of the persons employed to examine the vessel, might have been obtained to prove these facts.

A sentence of condemnation of a ship is not evidence to prove the *facts* contained in it.

Therefore, where a condemnation of a vessel by a court of vice-admiralty abroad, after a survey upon oath, was offered in evidence to prove certain defects from which the want of sea-worthiness at a previous time was meant to be inferred; Lord *Kenyon*, though he admitted the sentence as evidence to prove the mere fact of condemnation, rejected it as evidence of the *facts* contained in it.

Wright v. Bernard, at G. H. Mich. vac. 1798.

If it be clearly ascertained that the ship, at the time of her departure, was not in a condition to perform the voyage insured, neither the innocence or ignorance of the insured, nor any precautions he may have taken to make her sea-worthy, will avail him against the breach of his implied warranty.

Neither the ignorance or innocence of the insured will avail him against a breach of this implied warranty.

Thus;

Lee v. Beach, at
N. P. after M.
1762.

The purchaser of a ship lends her to be docked and completely repaired, and the ship-builder is ready to swear that this was done; yet if it afterwards appear that she was not sea-worthy, though this proceed from a latent cause, the policy is void.

Thus: The plaintiff had purchased a ship, and after having her surveyed by proper persons, sent her into dock, and there had her fully repaired; and the ship-builder was ready to swear that he had effectually repaired her, as he thought, having done all that was requisite to make her a good ship. Being then taken into government service, she was, as usual, surveyed by the persons employed for that purpose, and reported to be a good ship. She sailed out of the *Thames*, and arrived at *Portsmouth*; but being very leaky in bad weather, the admiral ordered her to go into port, and undergo a survey there. This was done, and it was found, on opening her, that some timbers near her keel were very bad; insomuch that she was condemned as insufficient to proceed. The plaintiff having insured her, brought an action on the policy to recover the loss; and at the trial insisted that he had a right to prove, and could prove, that he had done every thing in his power to send her out a good and sufficient ship; but that her disability was the effect of a *latent cause*, not known to him or discovered when she was surveyed, or in the dock repairing.—Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, said that it appeared that the ship had *died a natural death*, and had received her death's blow before the risk commenced; and, however innocent the plaintiff might be, and however cautiously he had acted, the underwriter was equally innocent; and the implied warranty must and ought to have its effect; and he nonsuited the plaintiff.

Oliver v. Coruley,
at N. P. after T.
1765.

And the insured's being unacquainted with the state of the ship, does not alter the case.

So, where an insurance was made on goods on board the *Amy and Leticia*, at and from *Monserrat* to *London*, the ship sailed the 16th of *July*, and the next day, without any bad weather, she was found to be very leaky, and obliged to run for the island of *St. Thomas*, where she was unloaded, and the goods, being much damaged, were sold. In an action on the policy to recover for this loss, it was agreed, on the one hand, that the ship was not sea-worthy to undertake the voyage insured; and on the other, that the insured was totally ignorant of this, when the goods were shipped.—The plaintiff was nonsuited.—Lord *Mansfield* said, that the implied warranty could

could not be dispensed with in any case. However, as it was a question of law, he would save the point; but the plaintiff's counsel acquiesced in his lordship's decision.

Though the owners may not know the true state and condition of the ship in a distant part of the world, yet, if they insure, the law will presume that the master, or some other agent, will take care that the ship be sea-worthy before she sails. Hence it is, that though a ship has been long absent in the remotest parts of the world, if an insurance be made on her homeward voyage, the warranty that she was sea-worthy at the time of her departure, is as strongly implied in the contract, as if she had sailed from an *English* port. And though no fraud be imputable to the insured; though he supposed, or believed, that the ship was in all respects sea-worthy; though no blame be imputable to the master, or any other agent of the insured; and though the underwriters were as well acquainted with the state and condition of the ship as the owners; yet, if in fact she was not sea-worthy at the time of her sailing, the contract will be void.—The following celebrated case may seem, however, to afford an exception to this rule.

If the ship be not sea-worthy, the policy will be void, though both the insured and the captain be believed her to be sea-worthy; and though the insurers knew the state she was in as well as the owners.

An insurance was made on a ship called the *Mills Frigate*, lost or not lost, 'At and from the *Leeward Islands* to *London*,' beginning the adventure from her 'arrival at the *Leeward Islands*.'—In an action on this policy, the loss was stated to have arisen from divers leaks sprung by the ship, from the starting of planks, by tempestuous weather and the mere perils of the sea.—Upon the trial of the cause, before Lord Chief Baron *Parker*, the evidence on the part of the plaintiffs was, to this effect:—That the ship was *French* built; and the defendant knew her to be such; that the bolts of such ships being iron, grow rusty and break; and then the timbers suddenly become loose, and the ship is thereby rendered incapable of bearing the sea, without any visible marks of decay; that she had been generally employed by the plaintiffs in the *West India* trade, and large sums constantly insured on her; that before she sailed on her last voyage, she was put into complete repair, but her iron

Mills and another v. *Rorhuck*, in the *Exchequer*, Mich. 1769,

seems contrary.

bolts could not then be examined without taking off her sheathing, which had not long before been put on; that the first underwriter on the policy, with others, kept a register of all ships insured by them, containing a particular description of each, and employed a surveyor to examine them; that the *Mills Frigate* had long been entered in this register, and, before her last voyage, was examined by the surveyor, and found fit to undertake the voyage to and from the *Leeward Islands*; that the first underwriter knew as much of the condition of the ship as the plaintiffs, and underwrote 40c/. on her outward voyage; that at *St. Kitts* she had such a repair as was deemed sufficient for her homeward voyage, but her bolts could not be examined there; that at *Nevis*, where a loading was expected, the planters, knowing she had been leaky on her outward voyage, refused to put sugars on board her; but to satisfy them, a survey was made by six captains, who reported that she was strong and sound, and, when caulked, would be fully sufficient to carry a cargo to *London*; that she was accordingly caulked, and during two months, while she was loading, continued tight; that the day after she sailed from *Nevis*, without any bad weather, she sprung a leak, which obliged the captain to bear away for *St. Kitts*, where she arrived in two days, and it was there found that she had started a plank, and on being surveyed, she was reported to be unfit to proceed on her voyage, without a thorough repair, which would cost more than the value of the ship and freight, and which, at all events, could not be had at *St. Kitts*, for want of docks and materials, and that she was unfit to sail elsewhere to be repaired; that the starting of the plank was owing to the iron bolts being rusty and decayed and breaking off in the planks; and that, as other bolts might be in the same state, it was concluded that the ship was not at the time she sailed from *Nevis* for *London*, fit to perform that voyage; and this the captain now believed, though, to all outward appearance, she was a good ship, and, as he thought when he sailed from *Nevis*, proper for the voyage; but had he known the decayed condition of her bolts before he sailed on his homeward voyage, he would not have ventured

ventured his life in her; that while the ship was at *St. Kitts*, the captain wrote to the plaintiffs, 'giving them an account of his outward voyage, mentioning the bad weather he had met with, the *loosened, weak, and leaky state of the ship*, and the necessity he had been under of having *her upper works new nailed*; that the plaintiffs gave this letter to a broker to get an insurance made on the ship, freight, and cargo; which being shewn to the first underwriter, he chose to insure the ship, saying, she would come home safe enough, notwithstanding the damage she had received, it being a summer voyage; but she would very likely damage her cargo; and being about to underwrite 300*l.* the broker told him he was a bold man to write so much, after reading the letter, upon which he altered the *three* into a *two*; that the broker shewed the same letter to all the other underwriters before they underwrote.'—The defendants demurred to this evidence, upon which the court gave judgment for the plaintiffs, the insured.—A writ of error was brought in the *Exchequer Chamber*, which was referred to lord *Mansfield* and lord C. J. *Wilmot* who, after argument, reported their opinion to be in favour of the defendants in error, and affirmed the judgment of the Court of Exchequer (a).

The principles upon which this opinion was founded were not publicly declared, because it is not usual, upon a writ of error from the court of *Exchequer* to the *Exchequer Chamber*, for the judges, to whom it is referred, to deliver their opinions publicly.

Observations on the above case.

In the first edition of this work it was stated, from the only account of this case then in print, that the judgment was in favour of the underwriters. This error probably

(a) Before this action in the Exchequer was brought, an action on the same policy had been tried in the court of Common Pleas before Lord *Camden*, who directed the jury to find for the plaintiff. But upon a motion for a new trial, he altered his opinion, and the court unanimously determined that the ship, not being sea-worthy, the plaintiffs, however innocent they might be, could not recover.

originated in the very inaccurate mention of this case in Sir James Burrow's report of the case of *lord March v. Pigot* (a), where the counsel in arguing for the defendant are supposed to have stated that the insurers upon the *Mills Frigate* were holden not to be liable on account of the ship's not being sea-worthy, though the defect was not known to the insured; and lord Mansfield is made to answer in these words: 'I differ totally in opinion from that doctrine. The determination in that case was made upon quite another ground.—The insured ought to know whether his ship was sea-worthy or not, at the time when she set out upon her voyage: But how should he know the condition she might be in, after she had been out a twelvemonth.'—If this be any thing like a true statement of what his lordship said on the occasion, it is plain that his judgment had been in favour of the insured: And yet he is not made to deny that the judgment was in favour of the underwriters, but only that it proceeded upon a different ground from that stated in the argument.—Upon inquiry at the proper office, I find that in fact the judgment was in favour of the insured; but I have been unable to learn the true ground of it. That which is above supposed to have been hinted at by lord Mansfield, could not have been the ground, because it is contrary to the principle universally admitted, and often maintained by his lordship, namely, that the implied warranty can in no case be dispensed with. The judgment probably proceeded on the ground that the insured, by demurring to the evidence given on behalf of the plaintiffs, had admitted upon record the truth of every fact and conclusion which, upon the evidence stated, might have been found by the jury in favour of the party who adduced it (b). And yet, upon an attentive review of the facts stated on the record, it is not easy to reconcile the judgment to any just principle of the law of insurance.

(a) 5 Burr. 2804.—(b) See the opinions of Mr. Justice Buller, in the case of *Cocksedge v. Fanshawe*, Doug. 134., and of lord C. J. Eyre in the case of *Gibson and Johnson v. Hunter*, 4 H. Bl. 205.

Where the goods insured have sustained a damage in the voyage from the insufficiency of the ship, the question whether the owner of the ship be liable to make good the loss, depends on the question, whether the ship were in a condition to perform her voyage, at the time of her departure, or became defective from stress of weather and the perils of the sea, in the course of the voyage. The owner is liable for damage occasioned by every injury arising from any original defect in the ship, or from bad stowage: But he is not liable for any injury arising from the act of God, the king's enemies, or the perils of the sea (a).

In what cases the insurer, and in what cases the owners, shall make good the damage done to goods from the insufficiency of the ship.

It is sufficient if the ship be sea-worthy at the time of her sailing. She may cease to be so in a few hours after her departure, and yet the underwriters will continue liable. The question, therefore, in such cases, will always be, whether her disability arose from any defect existing *before* her departure, or from a cause which occasioned it *afterwards*. But if a ship, within a day or two after her departure, become leaky and founder at sea, or be obliged to put back, without any visible or adequate cause to produce such an effect, such as the starting of a plank or other accident to which the best ships are liable, and which no human prudence can prevent, the natural presumption is, that she was not sea-worthy when she sailed; and it will then be incumbent on the insured to shew the state she was in at that time.

It is sufficient if the ship be sea-worthy at her departure.

But if a defect appear soon after sailing, without any visible cause, the inference is, that she was not sea-worthy.

But a ship, to be sea-worthy, must not only be tight, staunch, and strong, and provided with all necessary stores for the voyage proposed; it is, as has been already observed, a condition or warranty implied in the contract, that she shall be properly *manned*, by persons of competent skill and ability to navigate her. And therefore, if she sail without a sufficient number of hands to navigate her for the voyage; or if she be suffered to sail in a river, or other place of difficult navigation, without a pilot properly qualified, the underwriters will be discharged; for this is a breach of the above condition,

To be sea-worthy, the ship must be properly *manned*.

As where a ship, insured from *Stettin* to *London*, took a pilot on board at *Orfordness*, on entering the *Thames*, who

Law v. Hellingworth, 7 T. R. 160.

(a) Vid. *Valin* h. t. tom. 1. p. 164.

A ship takes a pilot on her entrance into the

Thames, but he is permitted to leave her, and an accident happens before she is safely moored: The insurers are discharged, though it do not appear that the loss was imputable to any want of skill in those who navigated the vessel.

quitted her at *Halfway Reach*; after which, and before she came to her moorings higher up the river, she struck upon a ship's anchor, which entered her bottom, in consequence of which she sunk and filled with water before she had been moored twenty-four hours.—In an action on the policy, it was objected that there was actual negligence in the management of the ship, by not keeping the pilot on board till she had been moored in safety.—Upon this ground the court were clearly of opinion that the underwriters were discharged.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“The principle upon which this case must be determined, seems to be admitted on all hands, namely, that the insured cannot recover on a policy of insurance, unless the ship be equipped with every thing necessary to her navigation during the voyage. She must be sea-worthy, and to that end she must have a sufficient crew, and a captain and pilot of competent skill. But in this case the captain did not perform his duty; for he had no pilot on board when the accident happened. If the underwriters had been previously informed that there would be no pilot on board during a great part of the ship's passage up the river, probably they would not have undertaken the risk.”

SECT. II.

Of changing the Ship.

The ship cannot be changed unless through necessity, or with the leave of the insurers.

WE have already had occasion to observe that, in almost all cases of insurance upon goods, it is necessary to specify in the policy the ship in which they are to be transported. Without having this ascertained, the underwriter would be unable to form a just estimate of the risk he is to run (*a*). It is therefore, in general, a part of the contract, that the adventure shall be on board the very ship so specified, and no other. And if, before the

(*a*) Vid. *Roc.* h. t. n. 28. *Santerna*, h. t. p. 3. n. 35. *Stracca*, glos. 8. n. 10. vid. inf. c. 8. f. 3. n. 2.

commencement of the voyage, another ship be substituted for the one mentioned in the policy, or if, during the voyage, the goods insured be removed into another ship, without necessity, and without the consent of the insurers, the underwriters are discharged (a).

Some authors have thought that the underwriters are not discharged by a change of the ship, even without necessity, or the consent of the insurers, unless the new ship be worse than that mentioned in the policy (b). So that if the goods insured be removed to as good a ship, the underwriters will remain liable. Others doubt this doctrine (c). But with us, the nature and form of the contract entitle the underwriters to say that they had more confidence in the ship named in the policy, than in any other; and that, therefore, they cannot be bound to run the risk in another, though a larger and better ship, without their consent, or without necessity. Such also is the law of *France* on this point (d).

Therefore if a merchant insure three several parcels of goods, each of the value of 1,000*l.*, one on board the *Neptune*, another on board the *Triton*, and the third on board the *Venus*, amounting in the whole to 3,000*l.*; but he afterwards find it convenient to load all the three parcels on board the *Neptune*: In that case, *Pothier* (e) holds, and upon grounds which seem to be exactly conformable to the law as understood in this country, that the underwriters would be liable only to the risk on the parcel of goods to the amount of 1,000*l.*, which, by the terms of the policy, were to be laden on board the *Neptune*, and, as to the remaining 2,000*l.*, the policy would never attach.

Molloy, however, seems to think that the naming of the ship in the policy amounts to an absolute warranty,

If several parcels of goods, insured on board several ships, be put on board one of the ships, the policy will be good only for the parcel insured on board that ship.

It is not necessary to have a clause in the policy to enable the insured to change the ship in case of necessity.

(a) *Le Guidon*, ch. 9. art. 4. *Roccus*, n. 9. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 423. *Valin*, art. 26. h. t. *Consolato del mare*, ch. 87. & 89. *Mal. lex merc.* 118. Vid. inf. c. 8. f. 3. n. 2. — (b) *Roccus*, n. 57. *Straccha de naut.* art. 3. n. 10. *Casaregis disc.* 1. n. 33. — (c) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 424. — (d) *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 425. — (e) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 68.

and that if the goods be removed to any other ship, though from *necessity*, the insurer is discharged, unless there be a clause in the policy to warrant such removal (*a*). But this is too rigid a construction of the terms of the policy, and contrary to the constant practice of all commercial countries (*b*). At present no such clause as that mentioned by *Molloy* is ever found in the policies of any country; and this, of itself, is a sufficient proof that the liberty of changing the ship, in a case of necessity, does not require a special clause to warrant it.

Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court in the case of *Pelly v. Royal Ex. Ass.* (*c*) says,—“One objection was made, by comparing this case to that of changing the ship or bottom on board of which goods are insured, which the insured have no right to do.—Answer:—There, the *identical ship is essential*; for that is the thing insured: But that case is not like the present.”—Perhaps it may be inferred from this, that lord *Mansfield* meant to lay it down as a rule, without any exception, that the ship can in no case be changed. The reporter does not state the objection alluded to by his lordship; and the answer in which he is stated to have said, ‘that the identical ship is the thing insured,’ shews that the reporter must have misapprehended him. But, be that as it may, his lordship could only mean to lay down the *general rule*, without stating those exceptions arising from necessity, which the general scope of his argument seems strongly to warrant.

Dick v. Barrell,
at N. P. 2 Str.
8248.

A man insures on any ship he shall come in from A. to B., *interest or no interest*. The ship he sails in springs a leak, he removes to another, and arrives safe; but the first ship is taken: The insurer is liable.

Yet, where a man insured, ‘*interest or no interest, on any ship he should come in, from Virginia to London, beginning the adventure on his embarking on board such ship; the money to be paid though his person should escape, or the ship be retaken,*’ and embarked on board the *Speedwell*; but, she springing a leak at sea, he went on board the *Friendship*, and arrived safe in *London*; but the *Speedwell* was taken after he left her;—Lord

(*a*) *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 7. f. 11.—(*b*) *Vid. Mal. lex merc* 118.—(*c*) 1 *Bur.* 351.

C J Lee held that the underwriter was liable:—"For," said he, "the insurance is on the ship the insured set out in; and had that got safe home and the other been lost, he could not have recovered upon the ground of having removed his person into that ship in the middle of the voyage."

On the first view of this case, an inference seems to arise from it, that even necessity will not warrant the changing of the ship. But it is to be observed, that the ground of the decision is expressly stated to have been, that the insurance was on the *ship the insured first sailed in*, which must be confined to one ship; and that this was in truth a *mere wager*. Besides, for any thing that appears, the necessity was not great enough to warrant his leaving the *Speedwell*. But, be that as it may, this is but a loose note of a case at *nisi prius*, and is by no means sufficient to establish a principle contrary to constant practice and the usage of other countries, and which might be extremely injurious to the interests of commerce.

Observations on this decision.

The point, however, is now clearly settled in the following case, in which it was determined that the shifting of the goods insured from one ship to another, does not discharge the insurer, if this be done from *necessity* (a); and that the captain may even dispose of goods saved from shipwreck, and invest the proceeds in the produce of a foreign country, and these being laden on board another ship, will still be protected by the policy.

But the proceeds of goods saved from shipwreck may be invested in new goods; and the risk will continue on these in a new ship.

An insurance was made on the ship *Duras*, 'At and 'From *Marseilles* to *Madeira*, the *Cape*, *Isles of France* 'and *Bourbon*, and to all places in the *East Indies*, from 'place to place, during her stay and trade there, and till 'her return back to *France*, upon any kind of goods and 'also on the ship.'—The plaintiffs were interested in *bullion* and other goods on board, consigned to their correspondents at *Pondicherry*, with directions to barter or sell the same on their account, and to make the returns

Plantamour v. Staples, M. 22 G. III. B. R. MS. S. C. 1 T. R. 611. n.

An insurance is made on any kind of goods, and on the ship, from *France* to the *East Indies*, and back. The ship being lost in the outward voyage, part of the goods are saved and sent in another ship to *India*, and the produce thereof converted

(a) But see the case of *Henrickson v. Margetson*, 2 East 549. n. with the observations upon it, *sup.* 78.

into goods there and sent for France in another ship, which being disabled, they are put on board a third ship, which is captured.—The risk continues, and the insurers are liable for the loss.

to *Europe* in other goods, the produce of *India*.—On the outward voyage the *Duras* was lost at the *Isles of France*. Great part of the bullion was saved, and a considerable part of the goods were also saved, but damaged. These, without any authority from the underwriters, were sent forward in another ship to *Pondicherry*, where they were disposed of by the plaintiff's correspondents, who invested the produce in *Indian* goods, and shipped them, on the plaintiffs account, on board the *Père de Famille*, for *France*—This ship sailed from *Pondicherry* in *August* 1778; but in her voyage home, was condemned at the *Isles of France*, as unfit to proceed to *Europe*; whereupon the goods were put on board the *Louise*, bound for *France*, which ship was taken by an *English* privateer and condemned. On the 29th of *August* 1778, several underwriters on the policy signed a memorandum thereon, whereby they agreed to run the risk on the goods saved in any other ship or ships till their safe arrival in *France*. But the defendant and several other underwriters refused to sign this agreement.—The defendant paid into court the whole of the average loss occasioned by the loss of the *Duras*. By the loss of the *Louise*, the plaintiffs sustained a loss of 12 per cent. on the sum subscribed; which was paid by the underwriters who signed the memorandum, but refused by the rest, and to recover which this action was brought.—The court, upon the above case, were clearly of opinion that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover.—Lord *Manfield* said,—“The only question is, whether the shipping of the goods to *Europe* was necessary to the salvage. It is admitted that the defendant is liable upon the voyage to *Pondicherry*, though the goods were conveyed in another ship; therefore that circumstance makes no difference. The sale of the cargo is also admitted to have been necessary. Then, how were the proceeds to be remitted to *Europe*? What was the best way of getting home the money for the benefit of the insured and insurers? Beyond all doubt the best way was to invest it in other goods. Therefore, that being done which was the best which could be done, the underwriters are liable.”—Mr. Justice *Buller* said,—“There

In general when the best is done that can be done for the interest of all parties, the underwriters remain liable.

is no case that expressly decides that the captain may invest the produce of the goods saved, in other goods. But in *Mills v. Fletcher* (a), it was decided that the captain has a general power, and is bound in duty, to do the best for all concerned: And what was done in this case was manifestly for their interest."

If, in the course of the voyage, the ship be disabled, by stress of weather, or any other peril of the sea, the captain ought to hire another vessel for the transport of the goods, and proceed on the voyage, if, under all the circumstances of his situation, it be for the interest of all concerned that he should do so (b).

The captain ought to hire another ship, if it be for the interest of all concerned that he do so.

In such case, as the law is understood in *France*, the insurers shall pay all average losses on the goods, the expence of salvage, unloading, warehousing, and reloading, together with all duties that may have been paid,

To what expences the underwriters are liable in such case,

(a) *Doug.* 219. inf. c. 13. s. 2. — (b) By the *Rhodian* law, (ff. l. 10. s. 1.) the captain is released from all his engagements if the ship, by the perils of the sea, and without any fault on his part, become incapable of proceeding on her voyage. *Vinnius* (p. 295.) says that the captain, in such case, is not obliged to seek another vessel. *Non cogitur aliam querere navem, quia de certe nave actum est.* The laws of *Oleron*, (art. 4.) and those of *Wisbuy* (art. 16. 37. 55.) say that the captain may hire another ship. The law of *France* (ord. mar. tit. *du fret.* art. 11.) declares that if the ship be disabled, and the captain cannot get her repaired, he shall be obliged to hire another immediately; if he can procure one.—*Pothier* (*des chartes parties* n. 68.) and *Valin*, (tit. *du fret.* art. 11. vol. 1. p. 618.) say that this means only that the captain is bound to hire another vessel, if he would earn his whole freight. *Emerigon* (vol. 1. p. 428) holds that the captain being the agent, not only of the owners of the ship, but also of the shippers of the goods, is bound, in the absence of both, to use his best endeavours to preserve the goods and to do whatever, in his circumstances, he thinks will most conduce to the interest of all concerned.—In his quality of captain, he has the entire care of the ship and cargo, and is answerable for both. As to the goods, he is bound to do with them what it may be presumed the shippers would do, were they present. This seems to be the wisest and best rule, and that which lord *Mansfield* laid down in the above case of *Plantamour v. Staples*, sup. 170.

and

and the increase of freight, if any. In short, they must bear every expence which is the necessary consequence of changing the ship (a).

SECT. III.

Of the Insurance of Goods on board "Ship or Ships."

In policies on goods, the ship is generally specified.

IN the foregoing section it has been shewn, that by specifying the ship or vessel in which the goods insured are to be transported, it becomes a part of the contract that the adventure shall be on board the very ship or vessel so specified; and that no other can be substituted in its place, unless from necessity, or with the consent of the underwriters (b).

But they may be insured on board "any ship or ships."

It frequently happens, however, particularly in time of war, that merchants have goods in distant countries which they mean to import from thence, but know not by what ships they may be sent, and their agents are often glad to avail themselves of the first that offer for that purpose. In such cases, it is of great importance that the owners of such goods should be at liberty to insure them, without specifying the ships or vessels they may be shipped on board of,—and then the form of the policy is, upon such goods, 'on board any ship or ships; and this mode of insuring is so well established, both by usage and authority, that the legality of it is now become indisputable (c).

If two policies be made, for different sums, on goods in ship or ships, and the goods be put on board two ships, and one is lost; the underwriters on both policies shall contribute.

If two insurances, for different sums, be made, each on goods on board ship or ships, on behalf of the same person, and for the same voyage; and goods amounting to the value in both policies, but in different proportions be put on board two ships, which sail on the voyage insured; and nothing be done to appropriate either policy to the goods on board of either ship, and one of them be

(a) Emerig. tom. 1. p. 432. 576. 681.— (b) Vid. in ch. 8. l. 3.— (c) Vid. *Kewley v. Ryan*, 2 H. Bl. 343. in ch. 8. l. 3 Emerig. tom. 1. p. 173.

lost; it would seem that this ought to be considered as but one insurance on the entire goods, by two policies, and that the underwriters on both ought to contribute to the loss.

But the following determination will shew that if, in such case, the insured appropriate each policy to certain specific goods on board the respective ships they may happen to be sent by, and one of them be lost, the underwriters on the policy appropriated to the goods on board of that ship, shall be alone answerable.

The plaintiff in *India* wrote to his correspondent in *England* to get two insurances effected on his account; one for 6,000*l.* on goods on board *any ship or ships* which should sail from *Bengal* to *London* between the first of *November* 1779, and the first of *July* 1780; the other for 4,000*l.* on goods on board *any ship or ships*, which should sail on the same voyage, between the first of *February* and the 31st of *December* 1780. The two insurances were accordingly effected, and the plaintiff loaded goods to the amount of 4,889*l.* on board the *General Barker*, and to the amount of 4,500*l.* on board the *Ganges*; and entered a certificate before the chief justice in *Bengal*, that he had put such goods on board the one, and such on board the other; and that he had shipped on board the *General Barker* (a) 4,889*l.* of the risk intended to be covered by the 6,000*l.* policy.—Both ships sailed within the time mentioned in the first policy. The *Ganges* arrived safe, but the *General Barker* was lost.—The plaintiff brought an action on the policy for 6,000*l.* which he contended he had a right to apply to the *General Barker*, and went for a total loss.—At the trial two objections were made: 1st. That no evidence could be given of the declaration made by the plaintiff in *India*; 2dly, That there ought to be a contribution, and all the underwriters on both policies called upon as for an average loss; and that the plaintiff ought only to recover in the

But otherwise if each policy be appropriated to the goods in a particular ship.

Henckman v. Offey, M. 23
G. III. B. R.
MS. S. C. 2 H.
Bl. 345. n.

Two policies, the one for 6,000*l.* and the other for 4,000*l.* are made on goods on board *ship or ships*, on the same voyage; and goods to the amount of both policies are put on board two ships, though not in those proportions, but it is declared that one is to be covered by the 6,000*l.* policy.—This ship being lost, the insured shall recover on the 6,000*l.* policy only.

(a) In the note of this case in 2 H. Bl. 345, the *Ganges* is here put for the *General Barker*, which is contrary to my note of the case, and obviously contrary to the fact.

A declaration made before a magistrate in *India*, that a particular cargo shall be covered by a particular policy, may be read in evidence here.

If two policies on goods be made the one on board a particular ship, and the other in *ship or ships*; and the latter be lost, the latter policy shall be applied to the goods lost.

Keruley v. Ryan,
2 H. Bl. 343.

proportion of 4,889*l.* to 4,500*l.*, or, at most, as 4,889*l.* was to 1,111*l.*—Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, over-ruled the objection as to the evidence, and admitted the declaration in *Bengal* to be read, and was of opinion that by it the plaintiff had fixed the application of the 6,000*l.* policy entirely to the *General Barker*, and a verdict was found accordingly.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the court held that plaintiff had a right to apply the 6,000*l.* policy to the *General Barker*; but ordered 1,111*l.* to be deducted out of the 6,000*l.* for what had been saved.—The plaintiff therefore recovered 4,889*l.* the value of the goods put on board that ship.

So, if two distinct insurances be made on goods for the same person, and the same voyage; the one on board a specific ship, the other on board *any ship or ships*; and the former arrive safe, but the latter is lost: the insured shall apply the policy on the goods on board *ship or ships* to the goods lost.

Thus:—*Freeland* and *Rigby* at *St. Vincents* wrote to the plaintiffs at *Liverpool*, to get 1,260*l.* insured on 70 bales of cotton, on board the *Elizabeth*, from *Grenada* to *England*; and also 1,300*l.* on cotton which they intended to send by *some other ship* that would sail by the first convoy, and directed this to be insured by *ship or ships*.—The plaintiff accordingly got 1,260*l.* insured in *London*, on goods on board the *Elizabeth*; and also 1,300*l.* on goods on board *ship or ships*, viz. 700*l.* at *Liverpool*, and 600*l.* in *London*. The policy for 700*l.* on which this action was brought, was, ‘At and from *Grenada* to *Liverpool*,
‘on any kind of goods as interest should appear, in
‘*ship or ships*, on account of *Freeland* and *Rigby*, warranted to sail on or before the 1st of *August* 1793, and
‘return 3 per cent. if the ship sailed with convoy, and
‘arrived; without any exception of the goods on board
‘the *Elizabeth*.’ The policy for 600*l.* effected in *London*, was also on *ship or ships*; at and from *Grenada* to *Liverpool*, but with an exception of 1,260*l.* ‘on 70 bales
‘of cotton per *Elizabeth*,’ the same underwriters in *London* having before subscribed the policy on the *Elizabeth*. But the plaintiff did not communicate to the underwriters at *Liverpool*, the letter of *Freeland* and *Rigby* directing

recting an insurance on the *Elizabeth*, nor any circumstance respecting the goods shipped on board the *Elizabeth*, and the insurance made on that ship.—The *Elizabeth* arrived safe at *Liverpool*. The *Heart of Oak*, on board of which the second cargo was shipped, was totally lost in the voyage.—The defendant conceiving that he had a right to apply the policy for 700*l.* on *ship or ships*, to the goods on board the *Elizabeth*, paid 3 *per cent.* into court on account of her having sailed with convoy and arrived.—The plaintiff recovered a verdict for the full amount of the defendant's subscription, including the money paid into court.—Upon a motion for a new trial, it was contended, on the part of the defendant, *first*, that a policy on *ship or ships* was not a legal policy; and *secondly*, that, as a ship answering the description in the policy, arrived safe, having the full amount of the sum insured, the property of *Freeland* and *Rigby*, on board, the policy was satisfied: And as every circumstance respecting the specific insurance on the *Elizabeth* had been concealed from the defendant, it was the same, with regard to him, as if no such insurance had been made on that ship. For if the *Elizabeth* had been lost and the *Heart of Oak* had arrived safe, the policy might, by suppressing the letter from *Freeland* and *Rigby*, have charged the defendant with that loss.—But the court were unanimously of opinion, *first*, that the legality of the policy on *ship or ships*, was too well established, both by usage and authority, to be disputed; and *secondly*, that the insured had clearly a right to apply, upon the authority of the foregoing case of *Henchman v. Offley*, such an insurance to whatever ship he thought proper within the terms of it.

By the law of *France*, if an insurance be made *separately* on goods on board several ships, named, and the whole are laden on board one ship; the insurer will run only the risk on the sum which he had insured on board that one ship, although all the ships are lost; and he shall return the premium on all but that one, deducting one half *per cent.* (a).

(a). Vid. ord. mar. h. t. art. 32. Valin ib. Pothier, h. t. n. 68. *Le Guidon*, ch. 13. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 176.

If a certain sum be insured on goods on board *five ships*; an- goods to a much larger amount be put on board several ships, of which some are lost; Q what proportion of the loss the insurers shall bear.

Emerigon (a) reports the following decision on this subject.—An insurance for 13,000 *livres* was made on goods on board the *Amphitrite*, from *Marseilles* to the *French West India Islands*, and from the *French West India Islands* to *Marseilles* or other ports in *France*; upon goods and merchandizes to be laden on board “any” “*French ship or ships*.” (b).—The *Amphitrite* arrived safe in the *West Indies*, where the captain loaded goods on board five different ships, in different quantities, to the amount of 25,832 *livres*. Three of the ships arrived safe, but the other two, with goods on board to the value of 15,259 *livres*, were taken by the *English*.—The insured insisted that the 13,000 *livres* insured should be considered as part of the 25,832 *livres* laden on board the five ships; and that the insurers should be condemned to pay the loss, by the rule of proportion, upon the total.—The insurers insisted that the value of the goods which arrived safe was more than the sum insured; and therefore the policy was satisfied. The insured replied, that the goods on board the five ships formed one entire mass, consisting of what was insured, and what was not covered by the policy, and therefore the insurers should pay the loss by the rule of proportion.—The insurers were condemned to pay 54 *per cent.* on the sum insured; but upon what principle is not stated:—The proportion which 15,259 bear to 25,832 is nearly 59 *per cent.*: So that, if the rule insisted upon by the insured was meant to be adopted by the court, there must have been a miscalculation in fixing the loss at 54 *per cent.*, unless we suppose that in the 59 *per cent.* the costs and expences were included.

If goods be insured on board of several ships, by separate policies, the risk to begin from the goods leaving the shore, and the goods are all sent in one vessel to be put on board the several ships, and this vessel be lost; Q to what extent the insurers are liable.

Le Guidon (c) puts this case.—A merchant intending to export a quantity of goods in several ships, makes an insurance on each, and sends the whole in a vessel from *Rouen* to *Havre*, to be put on board the different ships, and this vessel is lost in its passage.—The question he makes is, whether the words in the policy, “*convoient*” “*risque en barques, keus, ou bateaux, qui porteront les dites*”

(a) Tom. i. p. 174.—(b) *In quovis, dans un ou plusieurs bâtimens François, quels qu'ils puissent être.*—(c) Ch. 19. art. 1.

“*marchandises à bord*,” shall bind the insurers to pay the several sums insured on each ship.—He thinks the insurers liable only for the greatest sum insured on any one of the ships.—*Valin* (a) is not of that opinion. “It is sufficient,” says he, “that it was intended to divide the goods amongst the different ships, according to the terms of the insurance, to make the loss fall on the insurers; for they must at length be carried on board each of the ships; and their being put on board a single bark is of little consequence.”—*Emerigon* (b) on the contrary, thinks that it is of great consequence to the insurer, who has taken upon him the risk of the goods on board several vessels, that they should not be confined to one; and that neither the insured nor his captain has a right to make the condition of the insurer more perilous, by uniting all the risks into one, which, by the contract, ought to be divided. He concludes, however, by observing, that if ever the case should happen, *Valin*’s opinion ought to be followed.

Sect. IV.

Of the Employment and Conduct of the Ship.

ANOTHER implied condition relative to the ship is, that she shall be employed, navigated, and conducted, according to law; that is, not only according to the municipal law, and the law of nations, but also according to the particular treaties subsisting between the country to which she belongs and other states (c).

The ship must be employed and navigated according to law.

The ship must; therefore, not only be employed in a legal trade, but she must carry it on in a legal manner. If the captain be under any legal disability or disqualification, the ship shall not be deemed to be navigated

The captain must be under no legal disability.

(a) Sur. art. 32. h. t. p. 79.—(b) Tom. 1. p. 177, 178.
—(c) Vid. Lord Kenyon’s judgment in *Christie v. Secretan*, 8 T. R. 192.

according to law, and an insurance on such ship will be void.

Therefore, a non-compliance with a regulation as to the qualification of the master, though subjecting both master and owners to penalties, will avoid the policy.

Farmer v. Legg,
7 T. R. 186.

Thus; the late statute for regulating the slave trade (a), required that the master of any ship at the time of clearing out in the *African* slave trade, should make oath, and deliver to the collector of the customs of the port, a certificate attested by the respective owner or owners, that he had served as master during one voyage, or as chief mate or surgeon during two voyages, or as chief or other mate during three voyages, in the slave trade, to be attested by the owner or owners of the ship or ships in which such service was performed; upon pain that the master, and also the owners who employ him, should for every such offence respectively forfeit 50*l*. — Upon the construction of this act it was determined, that a certificate from the owners in the intended voyage was not sufficient evidence of a compliance with the directions of the act; and that, though a heavy penalty is imposed, not only on the master who serves as such, without the qualification prescribed, but also on the owners for employing him; and though the act does not declare that, for the omission, the insurance on the ship shall be void, yet it has been holden that the certificate ought to have been from the owners of the ship in which the service was performed; and that for the want of this, the ship could not be deemed to have been legally navigated, and, therefore, that a policy upon her was void.

The ship must be navigated according to subsisting treaties.

The ship insured must, as has already been observed, be navigated according to the subsisting treaties between the state to which she belongs and other states; and she is bound, therefore, to be provided with all such documents and papers as are required by such treaties (b). Therefore the sentence of a foreign

Though a sentence, on the express ground that one ship had violated a treaty, be conclusive; yet, if this be only recited as a fact, and the ground of the sentence be that the ship was enemy's property, the sentence will not be conclusive.

(a) Stat. 31 G. III. c. 54. s. 7. originally to be in force only for a year; but annually continued afterwards down to the final abolition of the slave trade. — (b) See the judgments of Lord Kenyon and Mr. Justice Lawrence, in *Christie v. Secretan*, 8 T. R. 196.

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court of admiralty, condemning a ship as prize upon the express ground that she had violated a treaty subsisting between the country to which she belonged, and the belligerent by which she was captured, is conclusive evidence to prove that she had not failed according to law, and so to discharge the underwriters. But if a neutral ship be condemned, *as being enemy's property*, and one of the reasons assigned for this in the sentence be, that she had not the proper documents required by treaty on board; this shall not be conclusive evidence to prove that she had not failed according to law; for the only point which the sentence professes to *decide* is, that she was *enemy's property* (a).

And thus much for what relates to the ship or vessel that is to perform the voyage insured.

(a) *R. Christie v. Secretan*, 8 T. R. 192. inf. ch. 9. f. 5. And yet the adjudication must be supposed to be the necessary consequence of the facts found; and the facts recited in the sentence must have been found by the court, otherwise the sentence would have been without foundation, a conclusion without premises.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Voyage.

THE next subject which demands our attention is the voyage upon which the insurance is to be made: Under this head we will consider;

- I. *When the illegality of the Voyage shall avoid the Contract ;*
- II. *What shall be a Deviation from the Voyage that will discharge the Underwriters ;*
- III. *When a Deviation shall be justified by Necessity.*

Sect. I.

When the Illegality of the Voyage shall avoid the Contract.

What is meant
by the voyage.

By the voyage, is here meant, the passage of a ship upon the seas, from one port to another, or to several ports. The voyage, with reference to the *legality* of it, is sometimes confounded with the *traffic* in which the ship is engaged, and is frequently said to be illegal, only because the trade is so (a). But a voyage may be lawful, and yet the transport of certain goods on board the ship may be prohibited; or the voyage may be illegal, though the transport of the goods be lawful. It has therefore been thought proper to distinguish the voyage

(a) When the contract is void on account of the illegality of the commerce, vid. sup. ch. 3. f. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

from the commerce carried on by it, with reference to the legality or illegality of each; and as the subject of insurances upon illegal commerce has been already considered in its proper place (*a*), it will be our principal business, in this chapter, to shew, what voyages are in themselves unlawful; and in what respect the illegality of a voyage affects insurances upon the ship or the goods on board.

Upon this subject, as upon that of illegal commerce, General rule. it may be laid down as a general rule, that no insurance can be legally made upon any voyage undertaken contrary to the laws of this kingdom, or those of its dependencies, or to the law of nations. And it is immaterial whether the insurer was or was not informed, that the voyage was illegal. The law would be inconsistent with itself, were it to lend its aid to enforce the performance of a contract, made in contravention of its own regulations (*b*).

An insurance, therefore, upon any ship or goods for a voyage undertaken contrary to the laws made for the encouragement and increase of the shipping and navigation of this country, is void (*c*).

The laws made for securing to the *India* company the monopoly of the trade to the *East Indies*, prohibit the ships of any other *British* subjects from sailing beyond the *Cape of Good Hope*, without a licence from the company, and also prohibit the exportation of the goods of *British* subjects, in foreign ships, to the *East Indies*. Any insurance, therefore, of ship or goods, for a voyage undertaken in contravention of these laws, is void.—Indeed the exclusive trade of the company is so interwoven with the general interests of the state, that it is not now to be considered so much the private right of a particular corporation, as that of a great national concern, the infringement of which is a public mischief, and a public wrong, and as such, is prohibited by the common law (*d*).

An insurance upon a voyage prohibited by the laws made for the protection of the monopoly of the *East India* company, is void.

(*a*) Sup. ch. 3. s. 1, 2.—(*b*) Vid. *Bynk.* quæst. jur. pub. lib. 1. c. 21. *Roccus*, h. t. n. 21. seems to entertain a contrary opinion. —(*c*) Vid. sup. 55, 62.—(*d*) Vid. *Camden v. Anderson*, 1 *Bos.* and *Pul.* 272.

Though the penalties of the 9 & 10 W. III. c. 44. have been repealed by the 33 G. III. c. 52.; yet a policy on a voyage undertaken in contravention of the former act is void.

In treating on the subject of insurances on illegal commerce, it has been shewn (a) that though, since the stat. 9 and 10 W. III. c. 52. many acts of parliament have been made, from time to time, for the regulation of the *East India* trade, and for the more effectually securing the monopoly of that trade to the company, yet that act has never been wholly put an end to. And though such parts of it as inflicted penalties, &c. have been repealed by the stat. 33 G. III. c. 52.; and though this last act has provided that no acts, or parts of acts, thereby repealed, shall be pleaded or set up in bar of any action, &c.; yet it is competent to the underwriters who have subscribed a policy on a ship trading to the *East Indies* in contravention of the stat. 9 and 10 W. 3., to avail themselves of this illegality of the voyage, in defence to an action on such policy. This was determined in the case of *Camden v. Anderson* already cited on the subject of illegal commerce (b). It needs scarcely to be added, that the same principle upon which the insurance in that case was held to be void, is equally applicable to an insurance upon a voyage undertaken in contravention of the laws above referred to.

Under the treaty allowing the Americans to trade to the British settlements in India, it is not necessary that this trade should be carried on between America and India, direct, but may be carried on circuitously, by the way of Europe.

By the treaty between *Great Britain* and the *United States of America*, concluded in the year 1795, and confirmed by the stat. 37 G. III. c. 97., it is agreed,—‘ That the citizens of the *United States* shall be received into the ports and harbours of the *British* territories in the *East Indies*, and may freely carry on trade between the said territories and the *United States*, in all articles of which the exportation or importation to or from the said territories shall not be entirely prohibited.’ — It then adds several regulations under which this trade may be carried on, one of which is,—‘ That the vessels of the *United States* shall not carry on any part of the coasting trade of the said territories; but vessels going with their original cargoes from one port of discharge to another, are not to be considered as carrying on the coasting trade.’ — From the following case it will appear,

(a) Sup. c. 3. s. 1, 2. — (b) Vid. sup. 65.

Ch. VI. § 2.] *Deviation from—What is.*

that, under this treaty, it is not necessary that this trade should be carried on from *America* to the *British* settlements in the *East Indies* direct; but that it may be carried on circuitously by the way of *Europe*.—As where an *American* ship the property of A. and B. (both *British* born subjects, but naturalized in *America*, A. before, and B. who was captain, after the declaration of independence) sailed to *France* with a cargo of goods, there disposed of them; and purchased goods for *India*, sailed to *Madeira*, where she took in the remainder of her cargo, consisting of *English* and *Portuguese* productions, and proceeded on her voyage to the *British* settlements in the *East Indies* for the purpose of trading there.—It was determined that this voyage was legal, and an insurance upon it valid; though the trade was not direct between *America* and *India*, but circuitous by the way of *Europe*; and though, as far as related to the *British* goods, this was a trading from *Great Britain* to *India* without a licence, by B., who was still a *British* subject; for it was holden that a natural born subject of *Great Britain* may become a citizen of the *United States* for the purposes of commerce, and shall be entitled to all the advantages of an *American* under this treaty; and his coming into this country for a temporary purpose does not deprive him of those advantages.

Wison v. riat, 8 T. sup. 62.

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Sect. II.

What shall be a Deviation from the Voyage.

BY deviation is here meant a voluntary departure, without necessity, from the usual course of the voyage insured. From the moment this happens the voyage is changed, the contract determined, and the insurer discharged from all subsequent responsibility. By the terms of the contract, the insurer only runs the risk of the voyage agreed upon, and of no other; and it is therefore a condition necessarily implied in the policy, that the ship shall proceed to her port of destination by the shortest

Deviation defined.

and safest course; and on no account deviate from that course, but in cases of necessity (a).

Distinction between an intended deviation and a different voyage.

A deviation is generally the result of after-thoughts, after-interest, after-temptation; and not of any previous deliberate intention: For it is not easy to conceive that any man, at all conversant in business, would be so foolish as to intend, *before hand*, to deviate from the voyage described in the policy; because that would be, to pay for an indemnity without having it. When the insured intends a deviation from the direct or usual course of the voyage proposed, it is always provided for, and the policy is adapted to it, unless fraud be intended (b); and in every case the *terminus à quo* and the *terminus ad quem* of the voyage described in the policy, and of the voyage intended, must be precisely the same. For if the voyage specified in the policy be not the voyage intended, and the insured, meaning to send the ship on a different voyage, give the captain his instructions accordingly; this is not the case of an *intended deviation*, for there cannot be a deviation from a voyage which was never in the contemplation of the insured: It must be considered as a different voyage from that described in the policy (c).

Effect of a deviation.

The effect of a deviation is not to vitiate or avoid the policy, but only to determine the liability of the underwriters from the time of the deviation. If, therefore, a ship or goods after the voyage has commenced, receive damage, then the ship deviates, and afterwards a loss happen; there, though the insurer is discharged from the time of the deviation, and is not answerable for the subsequent loss, yet he is bound to make good the damage sustained previous to the deviation (d). But though he be thus discharged from subsequent responsibility, he

(a) *Periculum intelligitur solum currere affecurator, pro illo itinere convento, et non pro alio. Nam si navis mutaverit iter, vel à viâ rectâ illius itineris diverterit, non tenetur amplius affecurator. Roccus, n. 52.*—(b) *Vid. Doug. 278.*—(c) See the opinions of lord *Mansfield* and Mr. Justice *Buller*, in *Wooldridge v. Boydell*, *Doug. 18. inf. ch. 8. f. 3.* and the opinion of lord *Kenyon* in *Stott v. Vaughan*, *inf.*—See, however, *Kewley v. Ryan*, 2 H. Bl. 343. *inf.*—(d) *Per Holt, C. J. in Green v. Young, at N. P. 2 Lord Ray. 842. 2 Salk. 444.*

is entitled to retain the whole premium.—The reason why a deviation discharges the insurer, is not that the risk is thereby increased, but because the insured has, without necessity, substituted another voyage for that which was insured, and thereby varied the risk (a).

Why it discharges the underwriters.

A person unacquainted with the nature of this contract, might, at first view, be tempted to think that if, after a deviation, the ship resume her proper course, still being in a good condition and capable of performing the remainder of the voyage, such a deviation ought not to alter the rights of the parties, or deprive the insured of the benefit of his policy.—But the answer is, that the condition implied in the contract, viz. that the ship shall not deviate without necessity, being broken by the insured, the insurer is discharged; and that the proper course of the voyage being once interrupted, cannot be resumed in the eye of the law: The contract being once dissolved cannot be renewed without the consent of both the parties; and if a loss happen after a deviation, who can say that the ship would not have arrived safe if she had pursued the usual course.

It determines the contract though the ship resume her proper course.

Having premised thus much concerning deviation in general, we will now proceed to consider this subject under the two following sub-divisions; 1. *What shall amount to a deviation.*—2. *When a deviation shall be justified by necessity.*

1. *What shall amount to a Deviation.*

A deviation has been defined, a voluntary departure, without necessity, from the usual course of the voyage. By the course of the voyage is not meant the shortest course the ship can take from her port of departure to her port of destination; but the regular and customary track, if such there be, which long usage has proved to be the safest and most convenient. Therefore the stop-

What is meant by the usual course of the voyage.

Stopping at certain places is no deviation if it be customary to do so.

(a) See Lord Mansfield's judgment in *Lavabre v. Wilson*, Doug. 271. inf. 192. and in *Hartley v. Buggins*, inf.

ping at certain places in the course of the voyage, though out of the direct line, if it have been customary to do so, is not a deviation, but a part of the voyage: For, whatever is usually done, is presumed to be foreseen, and to be in the contemplation of the parties in making the contract, and is therefore understood to be referred to by every policy, and to make a part of it as much as if it were expressed (a).

But a few instances will not make a usage.

But evidence of a few instances is not sufficient to establish such a usage. It can only be supported by long and uniform practice. Therefore, if a ship, in a voyage from *Liverpool* to *Jamaica*, put into the *Isle of Man*; and some instances appear of ships in this voyage putting in there, but no regular or settled practice of doing so be shewn; this will not excuse the deviation, but the insurers will be discharged (b).

The extent of the deviation does not vary its effect.

The shortness of the time, or of the distance, of a deviation, makes no difference as to its effect on the contract. Whether it be for an hour or a month, or for one mile or one hundred, the consequence is the same. If it be voluntary, and without necessity, it puts an end to the responsibility of the insurer; for it is not the increase of the risk, but the substitution of another risk for it, that determines the contract (c).

Fox v. Black, at N. P. 1767, *Beaumont* 315.

Therefore where a vessel insured from *Dartmouth* to *Liverpool*, put into *Loo*, a place she must of necessity pass by in the course of the voyage insured.—Though no accident befel the vessel in going into or coming out of *Loo*, but she was lost after she got to sea again, Mr. Justice *Yates* held that this was a fatal deviation.

Townson v. Guyon, at N. P. *Beaumont* 315.

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So where goods were insured from *Dunkirk* to *Leghorn*, and the ship came to *Dover*, in her way, to procure a *Mediterranean* pass, and was afterwards lost,—Lord *Mansfield*, in an action on the policy, held that the calling at *Dover* was a deviation which discharged the underwriters.

(a) Per lord *Mansfield* in *Pelly v. Roy. Ex. Assur.* 1 *Bur.* 348. inf. ch. 9. s. 5.— (b) Vid. *Bond v. Nutt*, *Coop.* 601. inf. ch. 9. s. 3.— (c) See *Lavabre v. Wilson*, inf. ch. 7. s. 3.

So, where an insurance on goods was made at *Glasgow*, from *Carron* to *Hull*; with Liberty to call at *Leith*.—The instructions to the broker directed him to make the insurance, ‘with liberty to call as usual;’ and it was usual for vessels sailing from *Carron* with goods on freight for *Hull*, in going down the *Frith of Forth*, to touch at different places for the purpose of taking in and delivering goods; particularly at *Burghwallness* and *Leith*, and at *Morrison’s Haven*, six miles down the *Frith*, on the same side with *Leith*. The insured were not privy to the liberty “to call at *Leith*,” being substituted in the policy for the more general liberty, “to call as usual.” The premium was equal, if not higher than was usual where the general liberty to touch at the customary ports was allowed. The ship sailed on the 4th of *February* 1774, did not touch at *Leith*, but put into *Morrison’s Haven*; sailed from thence on the 9th, got safe into the direct course from *Carron* to *Hull*, and proceeded with a fair wind, till the 10th, when she was overtaken by a storm, wrecked on the coast of *Northumberland*, and the cargo totally lost.—The underwriters, on hearing of the loss, conceiving themselves liable, wrote orders to have the goods preserved and sent to *Hull*, promising to contribute towards the expence as far as they were interested. Afterwards, however, they protested against the ship’s having gone into *Morrison’s Haven*, as being a deviation, and refused payment of the loss. An action was brought by the insured in *Scotland*, and, after a variety of proceedings in the courts there, which would neither be very intelligible, or very instructive, to an *English* reader, the underwriters were decreed to pay the loss.—But upon appeal, to the House of Lords, that judgment was reversed, the House being of opinion that there was, in this case, a wilful deviation; and though ships sailing on this voyage have sometimes been permitted, by the terms of the policies underwritten at the same premium, to go into *Morrison’s Haven*, yet that could not avail in the present case, since here no permission was given; that a wilful deviation from the due course of the voyage insured is, in all cases, a determination of the policy; and, that it

Elliot v. Wilson,
7 Bro. Parl. Ca.
459.

A ship, having liberty to put into one port, puts into another equally in her way: This is fatal, though neither the risk nor premium would have been greater, if this had been permitted by the policy.

is immaterial from what cause, or at what place, a subsequent loss happens; for, from the moment of the deviation the underwriters are discharged.

Where a ship has liberty to touch and stay at a place in the course of the voyage, she must confine herself strictly to the terms of the liberty so given. Any attempt to trade, therefore, during her stay there, as by shipping or landing goods, will amount to a species of deviation, and discharge the underwriters, unless the ship have liberty *to trade* as well as to touch and stay at such place (a).

Stitt v. Wardell,
3 Esp. N. P.
Rep. 610.

A liberty to touch and stay does not authorise the insured to break bulk or trade.

Thus:—A ship was insured, ‘at and from *Whitehaven* to *St. Michael's*, and from thence to her port or ports of discharge in the *Channel*, with liberty to touch and stay at any port or ports in her passage out.’—The ship, by stress of weather, was forced to put into the port of *Dublin*, where she continued three weeks, and there broke bulk and sold a quantity of coals with which she was partly freighted.—Upon this coming out in evidence upon the trial, Lord *Kenyon* said that the plaintiff could not recover under this policy, because the liberty to touch and stay at any port could never be extended to give the insured a liberty of *trading* at such port; for that would be to make the underwriters insure a voyage which was not in their contemplation.

A liberty to touch and discharge goods will not warrant the taking in of a new cargo.

Sheriff v. Potts,
5 Esp. N. P.
Rep. 96.

And the rule in this respect is so strict, that a liberty to touch and *discharge* goods at a place will not warrant the captain in taking in a new cargo there, even while the ship is detained by contrary winds; for this would be a new adventure not within the terms of the policy.

As where a ship was insured, ‘At and from *Guernsey* to *Gibraltar*, with liberty to touch and *discharge* goods at *Lisbon*; to return part of the premium if the ship failed with convoy from thence for *Gibraltar*.’—It appeared that while the ship was at *Lisbon* waiting for convoy, she did not only discharge part of her cargo,

(a) Yet, if a ship be found to be too heavily laden, she may put into a port, land part of her cargo, and sell it; or if too light, she may take in ballast, or goods instead of ballast. See *Guibert v. Redshaw*, inf. f. 3.

but

but took in goods there for *Gibraltar*, upon which it was objected that this discharged the underwriters.—On the part of the plaintiff, it was contended that this being done while the ship was necessarily waiting for convoy, occasioned no delay.—But Lord *Ellenborough*, who tried the cause, held that it amounted to a deviation, and consequently discharged the underwriters.—He said, that a liberty to discharge part of the cargo, afforded no authority to take in a new cargo; for, if that were permitted, a ship detained by contrary winds might take in a new cargo, and engage in a new adventure, which was not within the policy (a).

If there be several ports of discharge, the ship must visit them in their order.

If there be several ports of discharge mentioned in the policy, the ship must not invert the order of these places as they stand in the policy, but must go to them in the order in which they are named, unless some usage or particular necessity intervene to vary the general rule.

Unless there be an usage to the contrary.

Thus:—An insurance was made on a ship, ‘At and from *Fisberow* to *Gothenburgh*, and back to *Leith* and *Cockenzie*;’—The ship performed her voyage outward to *Gothenburgh*, and having taken in goods both for *Leith* and *Cockenzie*, on her return home, without going to *Leith*, she first put into *Cockenzie*, where she was stranded and lost.—In an action on the policy, evidence was given to shew, that *Leith* was a very safe and commodious harbour, and *Cockenzie* a very small and insecure one, especially in the winter; that the two places are about ten miles from each other; but *Cockenzie* lies nearest to *Gothenburgh*, and it is about a mile and a half out of the way to put into *Cockenzie*, in going from *Gothenburgh* to *Leith*; that, though there was no settled course to regulate this voyage, yet it was safest to go first to *Leith*; for, by discharging the lading for *Leith*, the risk of going into *Cockenzie* was much lessened.—Upon this case, the court determined, that as the intended voyage was described in the policy, and as there was no regular and settled course, known to all the traders, different from that so described, the ship deviated by putting into *Cockenzie*

Beufson v. Harworth, 6 T. R. 531.

A ship is insured from A. to B. and from thence to C. and D. the ports of discharge. The ship goes to D. before C.: This is a deviation.

(a) See *Grant v. Paxton*, inf. ch. 7. § 5.

first, and consequently that the plaintiff could not recover.—One of the judges added, that the parties, by inserting the names of the places contrary to the natural order in which they lay in the ship's course, shewed it to be their *intention* to vary the natural course of the voyage.

The ship may sail for any one of the places; but if she visit more than one, she must take them in their order.

But if goods be insured from A. to B., C., and D.; and the goods are shipped and cleared out for D. only; and a loss happen before the ship arrives at the dividing point from which she would have sailed directly for D., the underwriters are liable (a)—This, however, is not a question of deviation, but merely whether the ship, at her departure, sailed on the voyage described in the policy. The voyage insured meant a voyage to all or any of the places named, subject, however, to this restriction, that if the ship should go to more than one of the places, she must visit them in the order in which they stand in the policy.

Though the ports of discharge be not particularly specified, yet they must be taken in their geographical order.

If the ship's ports of discharge are only mentioned generally, but not specifically named in the policy, the ship must go to them in the *geographical* order in which they occur; and taking them out of that order, unless this be warranted by usage, will be a deviation.

Clayton v. Simmonds, at N. P. cited by Mr. Justice Lawrence, 6 T. R. 533.

A ship is insured from London to her ports of discharge in the *Streights*, with liberty to stop at any places whatsoever; and she goes first to Genoa, then to Leghorn, and lastly to Marseilles:—The voyage ends at Leghorn, and the insurers are discharged.

Thus:—An insurance was made on goods, 'At and from London to the ship's ports of discharge in the *Streights* as high as *Messina*; with power to stop or stay at any ports or places whatsoever.'—The ship was freighted with lead from London to Marseilles, and went into Falmouth, where she staid three weeks, and took in a freight of tin for the same place. Before she went from London, the plaintiff, who was owner of the ship, declared that she was to go directly to Genoa, Leghorn, and Naples, and there was nothing said about Marseilles. When she was off Marseilles, the wind being against her, she could not then get in, but went to Genoa, and from thence to Leghorn, and in coming back to Marseilles, she was attacked by a privateer, and blown up.—In an action on the policy, it was proved by several captains, and so

(a) *R. Marsden v. Reid*, 3 East 572. inf. ch. 8. f. 3.

held

held by lord Chief Justice *Lee*, 1st, That the going into *Falmouth* and staying there, was a deviation; 2dly, That as she did not stop at *Marseilles*, this was acting contrary to the terms of the policy; for by her ports of discharge must be understood, the ports at which it was intended goods should be delivered, and the first of them was *Marseilles*.—Upon this there was a verdict for the defendant,

So, where a ship was insured, 'At and from *Lisbon* to a port in *England*, with liberty to call at any one port in *Portugal*, for any purpose whatsoever.'—The ship sailed from *Lisbon* to *Faro*, to complete her loading, *Faro* being a port in *Portugal*, to the southward of *Lisbon*, and therefore quite out of the course of the voyage to *England*.—Lord *Kenyon* held that the liberty given by the policy to call at any one port in *Portugal*, must be restrained to a permission to call at some port to the northward of *Lisbon*, in the course of the voyage to *England*; and that going to the southward was a deviation which discharged the underwriters.

Hogg v. Hornet,
at N. P. after
Mich. 1797.
MS.

A ship is insured from *Lisbon* to *England*, with liberty to call at any one port in *Portugal*: This gives only a liberty to call at some port in *Portugal* in the course of the voyage to *England*.

Yet, if a ship be compelled by any necessity to change the order of the places to which she is insured, this is no deviation.—As where a ship was insured from *Lisbon* to *Madeira*, from thence to *Saffi*, on the coast of *Africa*, and back from thence to *Lisbon*; and upon her arrival at *Madeira*, the crew being alarmed by reports of *Moorish* cruizers being off *Saffi*, quitted the ship and refused to return to her unless the captain would promise to sail immediately back to *Lisbon*. The captain complied; but on his arrival at *Lisbon*, the charterers insisted on his proceeding directly to *Saffi*; which he accordingly did, and was captured on his return from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*.—It was determined, that there was no deviation in this case, and that the underwriters were liable.

Driscoll v. Bevil,
1 Bos. & Pul.
313. sup. 190.

Yet if a ship be compelled by necessity to alter the order of the places, it will be no deviation.

As the clause so frequently introduced into policies, giving liberty to the insured 'to touch, stay, trade, &c. at any ports or places,' in the course of the voyage, is often inserted as a matter of course, and without much consideration, it is necessary that it should be understood with such restrictions as the courts in different countries have thought necessary to impose on it, in order to prevent

The clause giving liberty to touch, stay, trade, &c. must always be interpreted as subordinate to the voyage insured.

And however general, it gives no power to change the voyage, but only to extend it to places in the usual course of the voyage.

Lavabre v. Wilson and Lavabre v. Watson, Doug. 271.

A ship is insured from France to Pondicherry and China, and back to France; with liberty to touch and stay at any ports and places, &c. This will not cover a voyage to Bengal.—A liberty to touch and stay at any ports and places means, ports and places in the usual course of the voyage.

vent any unfair advantage being taken of the general words in which it is usually expressed. It is therefore always interpreted as subordinate to the voyage insured, which is the principal object of the contract; and in cases of doubt, it must be understood with reference to the laws of commerce and the usage of the particular trade. If, therefore, there be in the policy a liberty, 'to touch, stay, and trade at any ports and places in the voyage;' such a liberty, however general the words may be, does not give the captain a power to change the regular course of the voyage insured, which he must keep constantly in view: It only extends to the ports and places in the usual and ordinary course of the voyage (a).

Thus:—An insurance was made, "At and from Port L'Orient to Pondicherry, Madras, and China; and at and from thence back to the ship's port or ports of discharge in France; with liberty to touch in the outward

(a) *Cassaregis*, (disc. 67. n. 25.) observing that the captain in the exercise of this liberty ought never to lose sight of the voyage insured, says, "*Clarum est verba apodixie securitatis committere voluntati patroni totum itineris decursum; ita ut in ejus arbitrio regulato tamen à jure et ratione, repositum sit quascumque scalas, quoscumque portus ingredi, antecedere in viâ, & retrocedere pro ut exigunt necessitas et opportunitas, sed semper animo, et intentione prosequendi VIAGGIUM usque ad finem destinatam.*"—The same doctrine is laid down by *Emerigon* (tom 2. p. 32. & seq.), and he exemplifies it by the following cases.—1. An insurance was made on a voyage from *Marseilles* to the *Levant* and back, with liberty to the captain, "*de toucher et retrogader par-tout ou il lui plairoit.*" The ship sailed to *Cadiz*, where she was lost.—It was determined that the liberty given by the above clause was subordinate to the voyage mentioned in the policy; but that here the voyage was changed, and the insurers discharged.—2. A voyage was insured from *Leghorn* to *Havre de Grace*, with liberty "*de toucher par tout, avant, arriere, à droit et à gauche, &c.*" The ship sailed up the *Loire* to put into *Nantes*, and was lost.—It was held that the insurers were not answerable for the loss, because the above clause only gave liberty to touch at the usual places in the course of the voyage insured; but not to increase the risk by going up the river beyond the place of destination. *Vid. Pothier*, h. t. n. 74.

“ or homeward-bound voyage, at the Isles of *France* and
 “ *Bourbon*, and at all or any other place or places where-
 “ soever.”—There was also a clause in the policy, “ That
 “ the ship in this voyage might proceed to, and touch, and
 “ stay, at any ports or places, as well on this, as on the
 “ other side, of the *Cape of Good Hope*, without its be-
 “ ing deemed a deviation.”—The ship arrived at *Pondicherry*, and, after remaining there a month, sailed for
Bengal, instead of going to *China*. Having wintered and
 undergone a repair there, she returned to *Pondicherry*.
 Both in going and returning, she touched at, and took in
 goods, or lay off, several places; and thus prolonged her
 voyage to and from *Bengal* much beyond the usual time.
 Having taken in her homeward cargo at *Pondicherry*, she
 proceeded on her voyage back to *L’Orient*, but was cap-
 tured by an *English* privateer.—One question was, whe-
 ther the voyage to *Bengal* was insured by the policy,
 under the general liberty to touch and stay at any ports or
 places?—Upon this point lord *Mansfield*, who tried the
 cause, held clearly, that these general words were, by the
 expressions “ outward and homeward-bound voyages,”
 and “ in this voyage,” qualified and restrained so as to
 mean only places in the usual course of the voyage to and
 from the places mentioned in the policy. It was then
 alledged on the part of the plaintiff, that the voyage to
Bengal was adopted by necessity, for the safety of the ship:
 —And to prove this, witnesses were called to shew that
 the ship was so leaky at *Pondicherry*, that she appeared
 to require careening, which could only be done at *Ben-*
gal, that being the nearest place to which she could
 proceed with safety for that purpose; that though it
 turned out, when she got to *Bengal*, that she could be
 repaired without careening, yet this was only discovered
 after she was unloaded of much more of her contents
 than could have been taken out of her in the open road
 of *Pondicherry*; that, besides the necessity of repair, she
 was delayed in unloading the outward cargo at *Pondi-*
cherry, till it was too late to undertake the *China* voyage
 with safety; and *Bengal* was then the safest place to
 winter at.—The defence relied upon was, 1st, That the
 ship

ship never failed on the voyage insured, her true and original destination having been *Bengal*, and not *China*; 2dly, that, supposing her to have failed on the voyage described in the policy, yet, her going from *Pondicherry* to *Bengal*, instead of proceeding to *China*, was a deviation, and not justified by necessity.—In support of the first ground of defence, secret instructions, found on board the ship, were relied upon, which, though obscurely penned, gave room to suspect either that before her departure, the *Bengal* voyage was substituted for that to *China*; or at least that this alternative was left to the discretion of the supercargo, to be decided by events in *India*, which actually happened, so as to determine the voyage to *Bengal*.—On the second ground, it was contended, that from the plaintiff's evidence it appeared that there was no necessity for going to *Bengal*; and that instead of going thither directly, a trading voyage had been made, which afforded a strong presumption that trading, and not the leak, or the lateness of the season, was the object in going to *Bengal*; and several letters written by the owners also raised a presumption that the necessity of going to *Bengal* was a pretence devised after the capture, when it was feared that the policy would not cover the voyage to that place.—Lord *Mansfield* summed up strongly against the plaintiff on the ground of fraud. But independently of that, he said that if necessity were admitted to have been the sole motive for substituting the voyage to *Bengal* in the place of that to *China*, still it was incumbent on the insured to have pursued that voyage of necessity directly, in the shortest and most expeditious manner; and that the delay in going from *Pondicherry* to *Bengal*, and the repeated stops by touching at different places, and trading there, were deviations, and not within the protection which the supposed necessity afforded to the direct voyage to *Bengal*.—The jury, notwithstanding this direction, found a verdict for the plaintiffs, which was afterwards set aside, and a new trial granted, upon the following grounds:—That a deviation from necessity must be justified both as to the substance and manner; and nothing more must be done than what the

the necessity requires; that the true reason why a deviation discharges the insurer, is not the increase of the risk, but, that the party contracting has, without necessity, substituted another voyage for that which was insured; that the necessity of the voyage to *Bengal* did not prove the necessity to trade, or to touch at a number of ports all out of the direct course, or to consume six weeks or two months, instead of six days.—The plaintiffs afterwards submitted to the opinion of the court, and abandoned their claim against the underwriters (a).

Nothing will justify a wilful deviation, but a real necessity to deviate; and therefore, if a ship having letters of marque, leave the convoy to which she belongs, and cruise in quest of prizes, though but for a single night; this will be a fatal deviation (b).—But though the ship cannot, without deviating, cruise in quest of prizes; yet if an enemy come in her way she may give chase, and in so doing, shall not be deemed to deviate.

Thus:—A ship, having letters of marque, was insured, ‘At and from *London* to *Cork* and the *West Indies*.’—The ship in the night descried a ship of the enemy, and after chasing, lost sight of her for six hours, and till the morning, when they engaged. She did not take the enemy, but proceeded on her voyage, and was herself

A letter of marque must not cruise in quest of prizes. But she may chase an enemy which comes in her way.

Jolly v. Walker,
at N. P. East.
Vac. 1781.
Beaves, 316.

A letter of marque chases an enemy and then loses sight of her in the night, and in the morning engages her: This is no deviation.

(a) *Emerigon* (tom. 2. p. 62.), has given a translation of this case, to which he adds some remarks in admiration of the administration of justice in *England*, which have been already mentioned, sup. 30. He adds, that having been consulted on this case by *Lavabre*, *Doerner* and company, bankers at *Paris*, who had lent 180,000 *livres* on bottomry on the ship and cargo, and were the insured in the *English* policy, he answered 1st, That *Berard* and company, the borrowers, having broke their contract, it was just that they should suffer the loss occasioned by their contravention of it. 2dly, That, by changing the voyage, the lenders on bottomry, as well as the insurers, were discharged from the perils of the sea; and consequently that *Lavabre*, *Doerner* and company were entitled to recover from *Berard* and company the 180,000 *livres* lent on bottomry, together with the marine interest and the interest incurred since the same became due.—(b) Per lord *Camden* C. J. in *Cock v. Tappin*, at N. P. *Beaves*, 316.

afterwards captured.—It was agreed on all hands, that though a ship, in such circumstances, could not *cruise*, yet it was admitted by the underwriters, that if an enemy came in her way, she might engage or defend herself, but they contended that, if she lost sight of the enemy, it was no longer chasing, but *cruising*.—Lord Mansfield left it upon the evidence to the jury, who found for the plaintiffs.

In the note of this case, which seems a very defective one, it is not stated whether the letter of marque, after she lost sight of the enemy in the night, continued cruising for her till the morning, or resumed her course to the *West Indies*, and fell in with the enemy again by accident. Probably that was the question left to the jury: If so, the inference will be that a *cruising* in hopes of meeting the enemy again, after she had been lost sight of, would have been a deviation, though *chasing* her was not (a).

A more recent case has occurred in which the question, whether a ship insured with liberty to carry letters of marque, may *chase* an enemy's ship, which she happens to descry in the course of her voyage, either with a view to capture, or to promote ultimate security, came under discussion.

Farr v. Anderfur,
6 *East* 202.

Whether a ship, insured with liberty to carry letters of marque, may deviate for the purpose of chasing an enemy who comes in sight.

That was an insurance on the ship *Mercury* from *Liverpool* upon an *African* voyage, “with or without letters of *marque*.”—The ship, in the course of her voyage from *Africa* to the *West Indies*, saw a sail which proved to be a *Spaniard*, a quarter of a point upon her lee bow, whereupon she altered her course a quarter of a point, and after pursuing her about a quarter of an hour, abandoned the chase and continued her voyage to the *West Indies*, where she arrived, but was afterwards wrecked.—The question was, whether this was a deviation. The plaintiff contended that the liberty of carrying letters of marque authorized the ship to *chase* any vessel which came in sight, as contradistinguished from *cruising* in quest of prize; that otherwise the liberty would be nugatory, since, without letters of marque, any vessel might

(a) See some observations on this case, 6 *East* 205.

defend herself against an enemy.—The defendant, on the other hand, insisted that this liberty gave the ship no authority to go out of her course, for the purpose of chasing or cruising, which necessarily led to hostile attack, and, in case of making prize, to the diminution of the crew, and a material increase of the risk from that of a mere commercial voyage; and that the use of the letters of marque was merely for the purpose of defence, and to capture an assailant, without the danger of being treated as pirates.—Lord *Ellenborough*, who tried the cause, left it to the jury to consider whether the deviation was for the purpose of capture, which the mere liberty to carry letters of marque, without more, would not justify; in which case they should find for the defendant; but if it were for defence they should find for the plaintiff.—They found for the defendant.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the court seems to have entertained considerable doubts upon this question, and directed a new trial, in order that the usage of trade, if any such existed in similar cases, might be ascertained.—It does not appear that the cause was tried again.

Sometimes a policy on a ship of force, with letters of marque, contains a clause giving liberty to cruise for a certain term in the course of her voyage. The following case will shew, that if it be meant that this term shall consist of different periods of time, taken separately, it ought to be so expressed; otherwise the cruise will be taken to be for one continued period of time, and not for several periods amounting to that time.

A letter of marque was insured, ‘At and from *Liverpool* to *Antigua*, with liberty to cruise for six weeks, and to return to *Ireland*, or *Falmouth*, or *Milford*, with any prize or prizes.’—This policy was made on the 9th of *February* 1779, and there was no time fixed in it for the commencement, or duration, of the voyage. The ship, in fact, sailed from *Liverpool* on the 28th of *February*, and kept on her direct course till the 14th of *March*, chasing, however, at different times, from the 7th to the 14th, when she began to cruise, the captain giving notice thereof to the crew, and ordering a minute of it to be

A liberty to cruise for a certain time in the voyage is to be taken as one continued period.

Syert v. Bridge, Dougl. 509.

A letter of marque is insured for a voyage with liberty to cruise for six weeks, but no time mentioned for its commencement: The ship may cruise six successive weeks, but not at different times.

made in the log-book. She continued to cruise about the same latitude, till the 18th of *April*, and then discontinued it, and the captain again gave notice, intending to go to the *Burlings* off *Lisbon*, in the course of the voyage. On the 23d, she renewed the cruise, of which the captain gave notice as before, and continued it till the 28th, when she was taken by an *American* privateer.—The court determined that the liberty to cruise for six weeks, meant six *successive* weeks from the commencement of the cruise, and therefore, that cruising at *different times* was a deviation which discharged the underwriters.—Lord *Mansfield* said :—“ This was merely a question of construction on the face of the policy ; and, unless an usage could have been shewn in favour of this desultory cruising, calling witnesses to support it, was calling them to mere *opinion*. None of those produced knew of any *instance*, and therefore their evidence ought not to have been received : Yet, I dare say, their testimony had great weight with the jury. The meaning of words depends on the subject. The instructions were not read ; but they shew the meaning very clearly, for they run thus : “ To cruise “ six weeks, and *then* proceed to *Antigua*.” There can be no general rule. Here the subject matter, in my opinion, is decisive to shew that the six weeks meant one continued period of time. There are frequently articles for a month’s cruise, a six weeks cruise, &c. Such a liberty, as in this case, to a letter of marque, is an excuse for a deviation. But what is contended for by the plaintiffs is impossible in practice. Suppose the ship returns *directly back*, after cruising for the space of a week. She may then, perhaps, take three weeks to return to where she had been. Can she then renew the cruise, and return again, and so repeatedly ? The voyage, in that way, might last for years. But the true meaning is, “ I will “ excuse a deviation for six weeks.” Six weeks is a continuation, a congregate denomination of time. If they had meant separate days, they would have said 42 days.”

Witnesses may prove an usage as explanatory of a clause in a policy ; but their opinion of its meaning is not admissible evidence.

The power given to ships having letters of marque must be strictly pursued.

The power given in the policy to a ship having letters of marque, must be strictly pursued ; and cannot be extended

tended by construction beyond its plain and obvious meaning.

Thus: The ship *Tamer*, having letters of marque, was insured from *Liverpool* on an *African* voyage, 'with leave to chase, capture, and man prizes.'—In an action on the policy to recover a loss by the perils of the sea, it appeared, that, upon the *Tamer's* arrival upon the coast of *Africa*, she found there a *French* trading vessel, and anchored within six miles of her; that the next morning the *French* vessel stood out to sea, and was pursued about thirty miles and captured by the *Tamer*; that the *Tamer* returned to the coast with her prize, and, having finished her trading there, she sailed with her cargo and the prize for the *West Indies*, in the course of which she sprung a leak and foundered at sea, and the crew were saved by the prize, which had kept her company till she sunk; that the captain's instructions required him to take *under his protection* any ship he might capture; that the letters of marque, in the usual form, authorized him to bring all captures he might make to judgment in some court of admiralty within his majesty's dominions; that he continued with the prize for her protection, and not to receive protection from her; that several times during the voyage he *shortened sail and lay to*, in order to give time to the prize to come up, and particularly on one occasion when the prize carried away her fore-topmast.—Upon these facts the court were of opinion that neither the liberty given by the policy, "to chase, capture, and man prizes," nor the instruction given with the letters of marque, required or authorised the captain to convoy his prize into port; and, therefore, that his shortening sail and lying to for the prize was a deviation which discharged the underwriters.

Lawrence v. Sidebotham, 6 East 45.

A liberty given to a letter of marque, 'to chase, capture, and man prizes,' will not enable her to convoy a prize taken by her into port.

It is a rule that the ship shall proceed on her voyage, not only by the shortest and safest course, but also with all reasonable expedition: But a ship, by deviating, necessarily prolongs the risk. In the following case it was determined, that any unnecessary delay will be equivalent to a deviation.

The ship must perform the voyage within a reasonable time, and any unnecessary delay will amount to a deviation.

Hartley v. Bug-
gin, B R. M. 22.
G. III. MS.
S. C. Park, 313.

A ship insured
on a trading voy-
age on the coast
of *Africa*, stays
there beyond the
usual time, as a
receiving ship for
slaves; this is
equivalent to a
deviation.

A ship was insured, 'At and from the coast of *Africa*
' to the *West Indies*, with liberty to exchange goods and
' slaves.'—It appeared that the ship stayed on the coast
from *August* till *March*, and was employed in receiving
slaves on board, the produce of the cargoes of other ships,
which were afterwards put on board those ships and sent
to the *West Indies*; that this was the employment of what
was called a *factory-ship*, but a regular *factory-ship* was
thatched and covered, and received the slaves till a suf-
ficient number were collected to send away; but it did
not appear that any slaves, the produce of the ship's
own cargo, were sent away in other vessels, though her
stay on the coast was several months beyond the usual
stay of ships in that trade.—The court decided that this
was equivalent to a deviation.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—
“The single point here is, whether there has not been
what is equivalent to a deviation; whether the risk has
not been varied. No matter whether the risk has or has
not been thereby increased. If a ship insured for a trad-
ing voyage be turned into a floating warehouse, or a
factory-ship, the risk is different. It varies the stay; for
while she is used as a warehouse, no cargo can be bought
for her. This is the law. The fact is, that, though this
was not a regular *thatched* *factory-ship*, yet she was used
as a *thatched* *factory-ship* is used. This being clear, it
follows that the risk is different in point of length, from
that which is generally understood in the trade, and con-
sequently from that which was insured (a).”

But time spent
in necessary re-
pairs before de-
parture, is not an
unnecessary
delay.

But though unnecessary delay is equivalent to a devia-
tion, and will discharge the underwriters; yet where a
ship is insured *at* and from a place, time spent before
her departure in necessary repairs, shall not be deemed
an unnecessary delay.

Smith v. Sur-
ridge, at N. P.
Esp. Rep. 25.

Thus: A ship was insured on the 15th *May* 1801,
'at and from *Pilaw* to *London*.'—She had arrived at
Pilaw the 13th of *May*, and it became necessary, while

(a) Vid. *Parkinson v. Collier*, inf. ch. 7. f. 5. in which lord
Kenyon lays down the same doctrine.

Ch. VI. § 2.] *Deviation from—What is.*

she was there, to repair her. This being done she began to take in her cargo on the 1st of *July*; but at that time the water was unusually low, so that she could not get over the bar; and she was unable to sail till *November*, when the loss happened.—It was insisted that this delay discharged the underwriters, who had insured a summer, not a winter voyage.—But lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, said, “that a policy *at* and from a place attached on the ship while under repair, it not being necessary that she should have been sea-worthy when the policy was effected; that here the ship was ready to sail, but an unusual want of water detained her; and therefore, that this was not a voluntary delay amounting to a deviation, nor such as would discharge the underwriters.”

A ship
“at”
need
worth
time
is effe

In the policy the voyage insured ought to be truly and accurately described; and where the voyage described is not the voyage intended, the policy will be void (*a*). But where the voyage described is meant to be performed, an intention to carry the ship to places out of the course of the voyage described, and even instructions for that purpose given to the captain before the ship’s departure, will not avoid the policy, this being only an *intended deviation* (*b*); and until it be once begun, the underwriters will continue liable.

An in
viatio
discha
de wr

Thus:—An insurance was made, ‘From *Carolina* to *Lisbon*, and at and from thence to *Bristol*.’—It appeared that the captain had taken in salt, which he was to deliver at *Falmouth*, before he went to *Bristol*, but the ship

Foster
2 Str.

(*a*) See chap. 8. f. 3, n. 4.—(*b*) *Roccus* (not. 20.) says that the voyage is changed as soon as the captain begins, or even agrees for, another voyage. “*Si ceperit secundum viaggium licet non completum, vel convenerit asportare alias merces in alium locum.*”—*Emerigon* (tom. 2. p. 56.) denies this latter opinion, and holds that if the captain give up his new project, and proceed on the voyage insured, the insurers continue liable. *Casaregis*, (disc. 67, n. 24), says, “*Mutari viaggium tunc dicitur, quando primam principalem destinationem magister navis non sequitur utpote quod navis cum onere, et cum primis vecturis, ad locum destinatum amplius non intendit ire, nec eat;*” and this, I believe, is understood to be the law in *England*.

was taken in the direct road to both places, and before she came to the point where she would have turned off to go to *Falmouth*.—It was ruled by lord C. J. *Lee*, that the insurer was liable; for it was but an *intention* to deviate; which was not sufficient to discharge the underwriter.

Carter v. Roy.
Ex. Aff. 2 Str.
1249.

In this case a former decision was cited, where the insurance was, 'From *Honduras* to *London*;' and it appeared that there was a consignment of goods to *Amsterdam*. A loss happened before the ship came to the dividing point between the two voyages; and here also the insurer was held liable.

Kewley v. Ryan,
2 H. Bl. 343.

A ship insured from *A.* to *B.*, sails on that voyage, but with a design to touch at *C.*; but, before she arrives at the dividing point, is lost:—The insurers are liable.

This doctrine has been adopted in a more modern case, where an insurance was made on goods, 'At and from *Grenada* to *Liverpool*, in ship or ships.'—It appeared that the ship on board of which the goods were laden sailed for *Liverpool*, but with a design formed before the commencement of the voyage, to touch at *Cork* in her way; but she was totally lost before she arrived at the dividing point.—Upon this case (*a*) it was determined that the insured was entitled to recover.—The court held that the *termini* of the intended voyage being really the same as those described in the policy, it must be considered as the *same voyage*; and a *design* to deviate, not effected, would not determine the policy (*b*). They observed that in *Wooldridge v. Boydell* (*c*), it appeared that there was no intention that the ship should go to *Cadiz* at all; and in *Way v. Modigliani* (*d*), the ship did not, when she left the port in *Newfoundland*, sail for *England*, but went to fish on the *Banks*. Here the ship was bound for *Liverpool*, though she had also clearances for *Cork*.

Stott v. Vaughan,
at N. P. Hil.
Vac. 1794.

Cont.

It is proper here to mention that, in the argument of the above case, that of *Stott v. Vaughan* was mentioned, which was an action on a policy on the same ship, for the same voyage, and which was tried before lord *Kenyon*,

(*a*) There were other points in this case for which it is cited, sup. ch. 5. f. 4.—(*b*) So ruled per *Holt* C. J. in *Green v. Young*, at N. P. 2 Lord *Ray*. 840. 2 *Salk*. 444.—(*c*) Inf. ch. 8. f. 3.—(*d*) Inf. ch. 8. f. 3.

who non-suited the plaintiff, upon the ground that the voyage intended was not the voyage described in the policy.

From a certain point in a voyage there are several tracks to the place of destination, with certain advantages and disadvantages belonging to each, and the captain has always been allowed, when he arrived at the dividing point, to elect, according to circumstances, which of these tracks he will pursue. One of these tracks is *prescribed* to him by the insured, and this is not stated in the policy, nor even disclosed to the underwriters; and the ship having taken the course so prescribed, is captured.—The court determined that, under these circumstances, the insured could not recover for this loss.—Lord *Kenyon*, Mr. Justice *Ashturst*, and Mr. Justice *Grose*, founded their opinion on the want of a full disclosure of the particular course the ship was to take, as being a circumstance that might materially have varied the risk; and this, whether it were considered as a concealment, or a defective description of the voyage in the policy, avoided the contract *ab initio*. Mr. Justice *Lawrence* founded his opinion on the ground that this was a *deviation*; and that if the ship had been captured before she came to the dividing point, the plaintiff would have been entitled to recover, as the captain's *intention* to deviate did not, before he came to the dividing point, subject the underwriters to any additional risk (a).:

Middlewood v. Blakes, 7 T. R. 162, inf. ch. 8. f. 3.

If there be several tracks to the place of destination, of which the captain ought to be at liberty, when he is at the dividing point, to elect one; but the insured prescribe one to him, the insurer is discharged—Q. Whether this ought to be considered as a deviation or a different voyage originally intended.

SECT. III.

What are the Cases of Necessity that will justify a Deviation.

A DEVIATION that will discharge the insurer, must be a voluntary departure from the usual course of the voyage insured, and not warranted by any necessity. If

(a) See the opinions of the Judges on this case fully stated, inf. ch. 8. f. 3.

If the master acts *bonâ fide*, and only aim at performing the voyage in the shortest and safest manner, a departure from the direct course will be no deviation.

A deviation

a deviation can be justified by necessity, it will not affect the contract. And necessity will justify a deviation, though it proceed from a cause not insured against.

Scott v. Thompson,
1 New. Rep. 181.

Goods on board a neutral are insured against sea-risk and fire only; the ship is seized and detained by a British cruiser:—

This is not a deviation, though occasioned by a cause not insured against.

As where goods were insured on board a neutral ship, 'At and from *Liverpool to Amsterdam,*' against *sea-risk and fire only*.—In the course of the voyage the ship was boarded by a *British* cruiser and carried into *Falmouth*, where she was detained six weeks, then released and permitted to proceed on her voyage. Upon her arrival at *Amsterdam*, the goods were found to have sustained some damage, occasioned by tempestuous weather in her passage from *Falmouth*. The underwriters contended that this deviation, not proceeding from a cause against which they had insured, was not justified by a necessity for which they were answerable, and therefore they were discharged.—But the court determined that they were liable.—Sir *James Mansfield* C. J. in delivering the opinion of the court, said,—“A deviation never puts an end to the insurance, unless it be the voluntary act of those who have the management of the ship. Here the deviation is occasioned by force, which, in such a case, is necessity; and there is no ground for the distinction between a policy confined to sea-risk and fire, and a general policy including all risks.”

One general principle pervades all the cases on this point; namely, that if the captain, in departing from the usual course of the voyage, act fairly and *bonâ fide*, and according to the best of his judgment, for the benefit of all parties concerned, and have no other view than to conduct the ship and cargo by the safest and shortest course to her port of destination, what he does is within the spirit of the contract, and the voyage will still be protected by it. The ship may go out of the way to avoid danger, and the deviation, in that case, will be justified by necessity. But a necessity to justify a deviation, must be a real, inevitable, and imperious necessity; not created by the insured himself, or any agent of his. The duration and extent of it must be warranted by the degree of the necessity; the ship must pursue the voyage of necessity so as to get to her port of destination in the shortest

The extent of the deviation must be justified by the degree of necessity.

The ship must not deviate from the voyage of necessity.

shortest and most expeditious manner; and any wilful departure from the direct course of this new voyage, or any unnecessary delay therein, will be a new deviation that will discharge the underwriters, in the like manner as if it had been a wilful deviation from the original voyage (a).—To determine, therefore, in any case, whether a departure from the direct course of the voyage insured amount to a deviation that will discharge the insurer, it will be proper to attend to the motives, end, and consequences of the act, as the true criterion of judgment (b).

The cases of necessity which are most frequently adduced to justify a departure from the direct or usual course of the voyage, are, 1. *Stress of weather*; 2. *The want of necessary repair*; 3. *Joining convoy*; 4. *Succouring ships in distress*; 5. *Avoiding capture or detention*; 6. *Sickness of the master or mariners*; 7. *Mutiny of the crew*. It will be proper to consider each of these separately.

1. *Of Deviation from Stress of Weather.*

IF a ship in a storm be driven to seek refuge in a port out of the usual course of the voyage, this shall not be deemed a deviation that will determine the contract: For it is a rule that what is occasioned by the act of God shall be imputed to no man as a fault. Nor is the ship obliged to return back to the point from whence she was driven, but may make the best of her way to her port of destination.

As, where the plaintiff, a merchant in the *West Indies*, wrote to the defendant who was his correspondent in *London*, desiring him to get an insurance effected on the ship *Friendship*, "At and from *St. Kitts* to *London*, war-

Delany v. Stoddart, 1 T. R. 22.

A ship, insured from *St. Kitts* to *London*, is driven by a storm out of the port of *St. Kitts* to *St. Eustatia*, and being unable to return, completes her cargo there, and proceeds on her voyage: This deviation will not discharge the insurers.

(a) See Lord Mansfield's judgment in *Lavabre v. Wilson*, Doug. 271. inf.—(b) Per Lord Mansfield in *Enderby v. Fletcher*, at N. P. Trin. Vac. 1780. See *Pelly v. Roy. Ex. Assur*, 1 Bur. 347. inf. ch. 7. f. 5.

“ranted to sail with convoy.”—The defendant neglecting to make this insurance according to the order, and the ship being lost, the plaintiff brought an action on the case against the defendant to recover the loss.—On the trial of the cause it appeared, that the ship left the port of *St. Kitts* to take in her cargo, and let go an anchor at *Sandy Point*; but as the wind blew fresh, she drove out, and could not come in again, but was obliged to go to *St. Eustatia*; that she sailed from thence with the convoy, and afterwards foundered at sea; that *St. Eustatia* is in the direct line from *St. Kitts* to *London*, and the convoy from *St. Kitts* always looked into *St. Eustatia*, to take up any ships that might be there; that when the ship was driven to *St. Eustatia*, after making several unsuccessful efforts to get back to *St. Kitts* to finish her loading, she took the rest of her loading at *St. Eustatia*.—The principal question was, whether there had been a deviation (a).—The court determined that there was no deviation.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The only question is, whether this be the same voyage as that intended to be insured, If a storm drive a ship into any port out of the course of her voyage, and being there, she do the best she can to get to her port of destination, she is not obliged to return back to the point from whence she was driven: Here the ship tried to go back to *St. Kitts*, but could not; and it is a much easier navigation to go directly from *St. Eustatia* to *London*, than to go back to *St. Kitts* first. She lost no time in taking in her cargo at *St. Eustatia*. Every thing should be imputed to the storm, which was in reality done and occasioned by it. It was a question to be left to a jury, whether this was the same voyage or not; and they have determined it.—Mr. Justice *Abbott* and Mr. Justice *Buller* concurred in this opinion, and laid much stress on the circumstance of the risk being diminished by the ship's remaining at *St.*

(a) In this action the defendant has a right to make every objection to the plaintiff's recovering which an underwriter might have made on an action on the policy, had one been regularly effected. *Vid. inf. ch. 8. s. 2.*

Eustatia, and completing her cargo there, instead of returning to *St. Kitts*.—Mr. Justice *Willes* differed from the other judges.

2. *The want of necessary Repair.*

THE *want of necessary repair* is another excuse for departing from the direct course of the voyage. If the ship, from stress of weather, or any other cause, be reduced to such a state that she cannot safely proceed on her voyage without repairs, the captain will be justified in carrying her to some port, the least out of his course, where such repairs can be had; and he must content himself with such repairs as can be most expeditiously done, so as to enable the ship to perform the voyage insured.

As where a ship was insured ‘from *Bengal* to *London*; ‘the adventure to commence from her arrival at *Fort St. George*, with liberty to stay at any ports or places without prejudice.’—The ship came to *Fort St. George* in *February* 1733 in her way to *England*, but being leaky, and in very bad condition, by the advice of the governor and council, she sailed for *Bengal* to be refitted. After being refitted, the ship, in her homeward voyage, was stranded and lost.—There was evidence to prove that *Bengal* was the proper place to refit, and that the ship had her lading taken out, and went thither for that purpose only; that this was a voyage of necessity, and not a trading voyage, for she took nothing on board but provisions and ballast.—Lord Chancellor *Hardwicke*, though he admitted that want of necessary repair would justify a ship in going to the nearest place where that could be had; yet, as there was no proof to shew that the ship could not have been equally repaired at *Fort St. George*, he directed an issue to try whether the loss had happened during the voyage insured. The cause was tried at *Guildhall*, and the insured recovered.

Motteaux v. Lond. Assur. 1 Atk. 545.

A ship, insured from *Fort St. George* to *London*, goes to *Bengal* to refit: This is no deviation, if she could not refit at *Fort St. George*, and *Bengal* was the nearest place.

If a ship, in the course of the voyage, be too heavily laden, she may land and sell a part of her cargo; or if too light, may take in ballast; or goods instead of ballast.

*Gilbert v. Red-
shaw*, at N. P.
Hil. Vac. 1781.
Park 301.

The ship, in distress, puts into the nearest port to refit, and there takes in 500 rolls of tobacco as ballast: This is no deviation.

Though a ship, as we have already seen (a), having liberty to *touch and stay* at a place in the course of her voyage, is not at liberty to *break bulk* or to trade there; yet, if, in the course of the voyage, she appear to be too heavily laden, so that it become necessary to lighten her, she may, at the next convenient place, land and sell a part of her cargo.—So, if she be found to require ballast, and she cannot safely proceed on her voyage without it, she may, at the most convenient place, take ballast on board, or even goods, to supply the place of ballast.

Thus:—A ship was insured, ‘At and from *Rochelle* to the coast of *Africa*, during her stay and trade there, and at and from thence to *St. Domingo*.’—Three days after the ship sailed from *Rochelle*, she met with a gale of wind, which strained her seams, and split her rizen yard, and damaged her rigging. The crew, in a body, desired the captain, for the preservation of their lives, to make to some port to repair. The captain, finding that the ship, which was new, had too little ballast, complied, and put into *Lisbon*, the nearest port; from whence, after taking 500 rolls of tobacco, as ballast (b), he proceeded to *Guinea*, and from thence for *St. Domingo*, but the ship was captured in sight of that island.—In an action on the policy, it was insisted, on the part of the defendant, that going to *Lisbon* was a deviation, and witnesses were called to prove that, from the latitude in which the storm happened, she might have proceeded to the coast of *Africa*, and there have repaired at a less expence, and that she could not need additional ballast. But it came out that no additional premium would have been required for liberty to touch at *Lisbon*.—Lord Mans-

(a) See *Stitt v. Wardell*, 1 Esp. N. P. Rep. 610. sup. 188.—

(b) For any thing that appears in the note of this case, the captain went to *Lisbon* only for ballast, nor does it appear that the ship had any sort of repair there. Perhaps the necessity of getting more ballast would have justified going to *Lisbon*: but that is not the ground upon which the case is stated to have been put.

field laid much stress on this circumstance (a), and left it to the jury on the ground of the necessity the ship was in to go to *Lisbon* for repairs.—The plaintiff had a verdict.

But if the ship deviate for the purpose of repair, this, like every other voyage of necessity, must be pursued in the most expeditious manner; for if it appear to have been undertaken for any other object than repairs, it will not justify the deviation; or if there be any unnecessary delay in getting the repairs done, this will be equivalent to a new deviation.

The voyage of necessity must be pursued with expedition.

Thus:—A ship insured ‘from *Port L’Orient* to *Pondicherry*, *Madras*, and *China*, and back to *France*, with ‘liberty in the outward and homeward voyages to touch ‘and stay, &c.’ The ship after remaining a month at *Pondicherry*, failed to *Bengal* instead of going to *China*; and having wintered and undergone a thorough repair there, returned to *Pondicherry*; and, both in going and returning, touched, and took in goods, at several places, whereby she greatly prolonged her voyage to and from *Bengal*. The ship being captured on her homeward voyage, and an action brought on the policy, one objection made by the underwriters was, that the ship’s going from *Pondicherry* to *Bengal*, instead of proceeding to *China*, was a deviation.—The plaintiff replied that the ship was found to be so leaky at *Pondicherry*, that she appeared to require careening, which could only be done at *Bengal*, the nearest place to which she could go for that purpose; and that, though it turned out, when she got to *Bengal*, she could be repaired without careening, this was only discovered when much more of her cargo was got out than could have been taken out of her

Lavabre v. Wilson, Dougl. 271. sup. 192.

A ship insured from *A.* to *B.* and *C.*, and back to *A.* after her arrival at *B.*, sails to *D.* instead of proceeding to *C.*, alleging want of repair; but in going and returning, she stopped and traded at several places.—Supposing the necessity for a repair to have existed, such a voyage is not justified by it.

(a) The reason why a deviation discharges the underwriter is, not because the risk is thereby increased, but because the voyage performed is not the voyage insured. (Vid. sup. 185.) The circumstance of the premium being the same, had liberty been given in the policy to touch at *Lisbon*, ought not, therefore, to have had any other effect than to prove that it was not originally intended to put into *Lisbon*; for if that had been intended, it might have been provided for in the policy, without any additional expence of premium.

in the open road of *Pondicherry*.—But the court determined that the delay in going from *Pondicherry* to *Bengal*, and the repeated stops by touching and trading at different places, were deviations, and not within the protection which the necessity for repair, supposing that to have existed, would have afforded to the direct voyage to *Bengal*.—And the court laid it down that a deviation from necessity must be justified by the necessity, both as to the substance and manner of it; and that nothing more must be done than what the necessity requires; that if necessity were admitted to be the sole motive for substituting the voyage to *Bengal* for that to *China*, still it was incumbent on the insured to pursue that voyage of necessity directly, and in the shortest and most expeditious manner.

3. To join Convoy.

Joining convoy.

A third cause of justifiable deviation is when the ship is obliged to go out of her direct course to join convoy (a).

Bond v. Gonfales,
at N. P. 2 Salk.
445.

S. P. Gordon v. Morley, up. 265;
Campbell v. Bourdieu, 2 Str. 265.
and *Bond v. Nutt*,
Cr. p. 601. sup.
255.

If a ship go out
of her way to
join convoy, this
is no deviation.

As where the *William* galley was insured, ‘From *Bremen* to *London*, warranted to depart with convoy.’—

The galley sailed from *Bremen* under convoy of a *Dutch* man of war, to the *Elb*, where they were joined by two other *Dutch* men of war and several *English* merchant ships. From thence they sailed to the *Texel*, where she found a squadron of *English* men of war. After a stay of nine weeks, they sailed from the *Texel*, and the galley, being separated in a storm, was taken by a *French* privateer, retaken by a *Dutch* privateer, and paid 80*l.* salvage.—In an action on the policy to recover this loss, it was ruled by lord C. J. *Holt*, that the voyage ought to be according to usage, and that their going to the *Elb*, though in fact out of the way, was no deviation; for, till after the year 1703, there was no convoy for ships directly from *Bremen* to *London*; and the plaintiff had a verdict.

(a) Per lord Mansfield in *Bond v. Nutt*, inf. ch. 9. f. 3.

4. *Succouring Ships in Distress.*

The succouring of ships in distress is a duty which policy as well as humanity imposes on every man who has the means of performing it; and a deviation for this purpose, being for the common advantage of all persons, underwriters and others, is justifiable (a).

5. *To avoid Capture or Detention.*

To avoid capture or detention is another cause of excusable deviation (b).

Thus:—The ship *Timandra* was insured on a voyage from *Lisbon* to *Madeira*, from thence to *Saffi* on the coast of *Africa*, and back from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*.—When the ship arrived at *Madeira*, all the crew except two, alarmed by reports of *Moorish* cruisers being off *Saffi*, and their having captured and ill-treated a *Dane* and an *American*, quitted the ship, and refused to return to her, unless the captain would promise to sail immediately back to *Lisbon*. Under these circumstances the captain carried the ship back to *Lisbon*; but on his arrival there, the charterer insisted on his proceeding directly from thence to *Saffi*, which he accordingly did, and was captured on his return from thence to *Lisbon*. After the ship's return from *Madeira*, the plaintiff wrote to his broker in *London*, desiring to know whether, if the charterer should insist on the ship's going to *Saffi*, it would be agreeable to the underwriters that she should do so. The broker, in answer, gave it as his opinion, that the policy on the round voyage was at an end, and informed the plaintiff that he had effected a new policy on the voyage from *Lisbon* to *Saffi*.—It was contended on the part of the defendant, that though the deviation, in returning to *Lisbon*, might

Driscoll v. Bevil,
1 Bos. & Pul.
313.

A ship is insured from A. to B., from thence to C., and from C. back to A.—At B. the crew, being alarmed by information of pirates, oblige the captain to return to A.—he ships again to C., and is captured on her return.—The deviation was justified, and the insurers liable. See also *Driscoll v. Pasmore*, inf. ch. 7. l. 5.

(a) Per *Lawrence J.*, in *Lawrence v. Sidebottom*, 6 East 54.
—(b) *Roccus*, Resp. 30. n. 1. & 31. n. 3. *Casaregis*, dis. 1. n. 68. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 51. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 57.

possibly be justified by necessity, still it appeared by the plaintiff's letter, that the original object of the voyage had not been kept constantly in view, for it long depended on the will of the charterer whether the vessel should proceed or not; and the plaintiff himself was manifestly desirous of abandoning the voyage.—But the court determined that, though the plaintiff had acted with great prudence and circumspection, he had never abandoned the original voyage, but considered himself liable to continue it, should the charterer insist on his doing so.

6. *Sickness of the Captain or Crew.*

If, by sickness, or any other cause, so many of the officers or ship's company are disabled from performing their duty, as to render it impossible, or highly perilous, to proceed on the voyage, the ship may put into the nearest port where medical assistance, or other hands, can be procured; and the deviation in such case will be justified by the necessity.—But, to make out such a justification, it must clearly appear that this necessity arose without any default of the master or owners; and that if a surgeon were necessary in the voyage insured, a surgeon of competent skill, and furnished with all necessary instruments and medicines was on board (a).

7. *Mutiny of the Crew.*

The last case of this sort which I shall mention is, where the captain, under the *compulsion of a mutinous crew*, is forced out of the direct course of his voyage in order to pursue some other.

As where a ship having letters of marque, was insured from *Bristol* to *Newfoundland*, and sailed with express orders that, if she should take a prize, some hands should

Elton v. Bredon,
at N. P. 2 Str.
1264. inf. ch. 11.
f. 6.

The crew of a
letter of marque
compel the cap-
tain to return
home with a
prize, instead of

(a) Per lord *Eldon* C. J. in *Woolf v. Claggett*, at N. P. 13th
December 1801.

be put on board the prize and sent with it to *Bristol*; but that the ship should nevertheless proceed on her voyage. A prize being taken, the captain ordered some of the crew to carry it to *Bristol*, while he proceeded on his voyage. But the crew opposed this, and insisted on his going back to *Bristol* in company with the prize, though he acquainted them with his orders. He was forced to comply, and on his return, his own ship was taken.—The underwriters contended that this was a deviation by which they were discharged.—But lord C. J. *Lee* held, that this deviation was excused by the force which had been put upon the captain, which he could not resist, and that the case, therefore, fell within the excuse of necessity, which had always been allowed.

proceeding on his voyage, according to his orders: This will excuse the deviation.

Thus far as to the voyage. We will now proceed in the next chapter to consider the risks or perils against which marine insurances may be made.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Risks or Perils against which Marine Insurances may be made.

THE *perils of the sea*, taken in the largest sense, comprehend all those accidents and misfortunes to which ships and goods at sea are exposed, from causes which no human prudence can provide against or control; *quod fato contingit, et cuivis, quamvis diligentissimo, possit contingere.*

Though these perils are all incident to sea voyages, yet we distinguish those which arise from storms and tempests, rocks and sands, and which are strictly speaking, the *perils of the sea*, from such as proceed from causes which are also incident to maritime adventure, but which may exist when the winds and waves are all propitious; such as enemies, fire, the unskilfulness or wilful misconduct of the master or mariners, &c.

It is not proposed, in the present chapter, to shew the nature and properties of each particular species of risk, nor to which of them a loss shall be referable, because this will more properly occur when we come to treat of the losses themselves. For the present it will be our business to shew,

- I. *Against what risks an Insurance may be legally made;*
- II. *What are within the common Policy;*
- III. *What are excluded by the usual Memorandum;*
- IV. *To what the Owners and Master of the Ship are liable;*
- V. *What shall be the Duration of the Risk;*
- VI. *Whether it may be changed after the Policy is subscribed.*

Sect. I.

Against what Risks Marine Insurances may be legally made.

INSURANCES may be made against all the risks or perils which are incident to sea voyages, subject, however, to certain exceptions, founded in public policy, and the interests of humanity, which require that in certain cases, men shall not be permitted to protect themselves against some particular perils by insurance.

Insurances may be made against all marine risks, with certain exceptions.

Upon principles of natural justice, the insurer can, in no case, make himself answerable for any loss or damage *proceeding directly from the fault of the insured*; because no man can bind himself to me to be answerable for my faults (a).

Not against a loss occasioned by the fault of the insured.

In the third chapter of this book, which treats of the subject matter of marine insurances, we have already shewn that insurances upon any traffic intended to be carried on contrary to the laws of this kingdom, or those of its dependencies, or to the law of nations, are void; and that the adventurer in such traffic cannot be protected by insurance, even against the ordinary perils of the sea, much less against the risk of seizure and confiscation, to which such illicit commerce, when detected, is generally exposed.

Nor even against the perils of the sea, upon illegal commerce.

In most foreign countries, insurances on the lives of men are prohibited.—In *France* they have always been deemed illegal (b), and are expressly forbidden by the ordinance of *Louis XIV.* (c); because, say the *French* writers, it is an offence against public decency, to set a price upon the life of man, particularly the life of a freeman, which is above all valuation (d). ‘But these reasons,’ says *Pothier* (e), ‘do not apply to *slaves*.—*Negroes*, being an article of commerce, and capable of

Whether the lives of men may be insured.

In the case of negro slaves.

(a) Vid. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 65. — (b) *Le Guidon*, ch. 16. art. 5. — (c) *Tit. Des assurances*, art. 10. — (d) *Valin*, h. t. art. 10. p. 54. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 27. — (e) *Ubi sup.*

‘ valuation, there is no reason why the lives of such persons should not be the subject of insurance.’

This doctrine is evidently contrary to the express provisions of the 10th article of the ordinance above cited; and it is curious to observe by what sort of reasoning *Valin* attempts to vindicate it.—‘ It being permitted,’ says he, ‘ by the 11th article of the same ordinance, to insure the persons of captives redeemed out of slavery, to the amount of their ransom against re-capture, or any death except natural death upon their return to their native country, it has become a practice, by the application of this article to a *similar case*, to insure *negro captives, bought on the coast of Guinea*, who are generally valued in the policy at so much per head; and in such case, the insurer becomes liable for their loss by the perils of the sea, or by death; but the case of *natural death* is always excepted, conformably to the last mentioned article. By *natural death* is understood, not only that which arises from sickness, and common diseases, but that also which the slaves themselves often seek in the moment of despair; because these are accidents happening *in the course of nature*, or occasioned by the *inherent vice of the article*, or sometimes by the fault of the master, which, therefore, ought not to fall on the insurers. But it is otherwise, when they are killed or thrown overboard in a revolt; for then, by the *French law*, the insurer is liable (a).

So that, according to this learned author, the disposition to suicide is natural, in negro slaves, and imputable to the *inherent vice of the article*, and their death proceeding from this cause must be deemed *natural death*. But the killing them, or throwing them overboard in a revolt, is a loss incident to this trade, and a peril within the policy.

In *England* the slave trade is now abolished.

It was long lamented, that with us also, the unfortunate objects of this cruel traffic were too much considered as mere merchandize; and the insured upon this trade formerly recovered, under the common policy, for

(a) *Valin*, h. t. art. 11. p. 55.

any loss sustained in the voyage by the mortality of the slaves, whether they were thrown overboard, in cases of supposed necessity, or died a natural death, or perished by the perils of the sea. *British* humanity long bewailed the sufferings of these unhappy victims. The legislature, touched by this sensation, interposed, and, for some time; by an annual act, certain regulations were made with a view to *interest* the persons concerned in this trade in the preservation of the lives and health of the slaves. At length, by the stat. 47 G. III. c. 36. (a), this trade has been totally abolished, all insurances upon it declared unlawful, and a penalty of 100*l.*, and treble the premium imposed on any of his majesty's subjects who shall subscribe, effect, or make any such unlawful insurances.

SECT. II.

What Risks or Perils are within the common Policy.

THE words of an *English* policy, which specify the various risks against which insurances are usually made, are these:—‘Touching the adventures and perils which
 ‘ we the assurers are contented to bear, and do take upon
 ‘ us in this voyage, they are of the seas, men of war,
 ‘ fire, enemies, pirates, rovers, thieves, jettisons, letters
 ‘ of mart and counter-mart, surprisals, takings at sea,
 ‘ arrests, restraints and detainerments of all kings, princes,
 ‘ and people, of what nation, condition, or quality so-
 ‘ ever; barratry of the master and mariners; and of all
 ‘ other perils, losses, and misfortunes, that have or shall
 ‘ come to the hurt, detriment, or damage of the said
 ‘ goods and merchandizes, and ship, &c. or any part
 ‘ thereof, without prejudice to this insurance (b).

The words
which specify
the risks.

(a) Sup. 94.—(b) In all the *French* policies they add the words, “*connus ou inconnus*,” or other words of the like import; and the insurer, by express words, puts himself in the place of the insured. Vid. *Vain* on art 47. h. t. p. 113.

Effect of them.

Some foreign authors think that, under words nearly similar, the insurer is not liable for losses arising from unusual or extraordinary accidents (*a*). But the sweeping words, in the latter part of the above clause, in our *English* policies, would seem to preclude all doubt on this subject, as being sufficiently comprehensive to embrace every species of risk to which ships and goods are exposed from the perils of sea voyages.—*Molloy* (*b*) says, ‘Almost all those curious questions that former ages and the civilians, according to the marine law, nay, and the common lawyers too, have controverted, are now out of debate. Scarce any misfortune that can happen, or provision to be made, but the same is provided for in the policies that are now used; for they insure against heaven and earth, stress of weather, storms, enemies, pirates, rovers, &c. or whatever detriment shall happen or come to the thing insured (*c*).’

Our courts do not, however, allow such a latitude of construction to the words of the policy. They seem rather inclined to confine the liability of the insurer to the particular perils specified, without much regarding the general sweeping words; and therefore, if, after a ship has sailed on her voyage, it be discovered that the port of destination is shut against all ships of her nation, and in consequence of this a perishable cargo on board be lost; this, though a loss arising from a misfortune incident to maritime adventure, and which could neither be foreseen or prevented by the insured, is now holden not to be a loss within the policy.

Hadkinson v. Robinson, 3 Bos. & Pul. 338.

A ship with a cargo of fish sails from Falmouth for Naples, and in her voyage is informed that Naples is shut against British ships, and the commander of the convoy orders the ship into Port Mahon, where the fish is sold

As where an insurance was made on a cargo of pilchards on board the *Paxaro*, ‘From any port in Cornwall, to Naples.’—In an action on the policy, it was

(*a*) *Roccus* not. 63. *Santerna* part 3. n. 72. *Pothier des obligations*, n. 668.—(*b*) B. 2. ch. 7. f. 7.—(*c*) *Sub nomine periculi, de quo fit cautio comprehenditur omnis casus qui accidit in mari, a tempestate, ab hostibus, prædonibus, reprisaliis, ut vocant arrestis aliisque modis usitatis et inusitatis citra fraudem et culpam contrabensium, aut domini mercium vel navis.* *Grot. de jur. Hol.* part. 24.

averred

Ch. VII. § 2.] *What may be insured against,*

averred in the declaration, ' that whilst the ship was sailing on the voyage insured, the port of *Naples* was, by authority of the government there, shut against all *British* ships and merchandizes, whereby the said ship, with her cargo on board, was prevented from pursuing her voyage to *Naples*, the voyage was thereby lost, and the pilchards became of no value to the plaintiff.'—
Upon the trial it appeared that the ship having taken in a cargo of pilchards at *Penzance*, sailed from thence to *Falmouth* to join convoy, and on the 24th of *January* 1801 sailed on the voyage insured; that on the 5th of *March* she received intelligence that *English* vessels were excluded from all the ports of the king of *Naples*, and on the 16th all the masters of ships were called on board the *Seahorse* man of war, and those who were destined for *Naples* or *Sicily* were ordered not to proceed to those places, but to make *Port Mahon*; that upon the ship's arrival there the report was confirmed, and a survey being made, the cargo was sold by auction, under the authority of the vice admiralty court there, and fetched a very small sum; that the plaintiff on being informed of the fate of the cargo, abandoned it, and demanded as for a total loss.—The jury, conceiving that the loss in this case did not proceed from any of the perils insured against, found a verdict for the defendant.—Upon a motion for a new trial, it was contended that this was a loss by detention of princes.—But the court determined that the verdict was right.—Lord *Alvanley*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said,—“ Any loss which necessarily arises from capture or detention of princes is a loss within the policy: But here the captain, learning that, if he entered the port of destination, the vessel would be liable to confiscation, avoids that port, whereby the object of the voyage is defeated. This does not operate to the total destruction of the thing insured. If it could, the plaintiff might have abandoned at *Falmouth*, in case intelligence had been received there that the ship could not safely proceed to *Naples*. A loss of the voyage, to warrant the insured to abandon, must be occasioned by a peril acting upon the subject matter of the insurance immediately, and not circuitously, as in the present case.
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The detention of the ship at a neutral port, to avoid the danger of entering the port of destination, cannot create a total loss within the policy, because it does not arise from any peril insured against."

Lubbock v. Rowcroft, 5 Esp. Rep. 50.

The port of destination being in the hands of the enemy is not a loss within the policy.

So where an insurance was made on 20 bags of pepper from *London* to *Messina*, and the ship having arrived at *Minorca*, it was there discovered that *Messina* was blockaded by, or in the hands of the *French*. Upon intelligence of this the insured abandoned.—Lord *Ellenborough*, who tried the cause, was of opinion that this was not a loss within the policy, for which the insured had a right to abandon; for if this were allowed, every ship about to sail for a port which had fallen into the hands of enemy might be abandoned.

If by the terms of a charter party, the owner of a ship becomes entitled to receive the freight upon part of the voyage being performed; and after this part of the voyage is performed, but before the freight is paid, the ship be lost, so that the voyage for which the freight became due could not be finished; this is a loss within a policy on freight, and the underwriters are liable.

Atty v. Lindo, 1 New Rep. 236.

Freight, by agreement, became payable when only part of the voyage was performed, but, before the freight is paid, and before the voyage is finished, the ship is lost; this is a loss on freight within the policy.

As where freight was insured 'from *London* to *Jamaica*, with liberty to touch at *Madeira*, and there discharge her *London* cargo, and take goods on board for *Jamaica*.'—In an action on the policy, it appeared that the plaintiff had chartered the ship to one *De França*, to take a cargo of goods from *London* to *Madeira*, and there deliver all, or such part of them as the agents of this freighter should direct, and there receive from them such a quantity of wine as they should think proper, and proceed therewith to *Jamaica*; in consideration whereof *De França* was to pay 135*l.* for freight for the whole voyage, such freight to be paid, in *Madeira* 'on a right and true delivery of the outward cargo, in wine at 40*l.* per pipe;' that the ship with a cargo of bale goods and some coals in old wine casks, arrived at *Madeira* on the 26th of *February* 1804, and on the 28th began to deliver her cargo, the whole of which, except 33 casks of coals, (which were kept on board as ballast to stiffen the ship till the cargo for *Jamaica* should be shipped) was discharged,

charged, and 69 pipes of wine put on board for *De França* by the 7th of *March*, on which day a gale of wind arose, and on the 9th the master was obliged to cut his cable and run out to sea, where the ship was soon after captured.—On the part of the defendant it was contended, 1. That, before the ship was forced to leave *Madeira*, the plaintiff's right to freight, as against *De França* had vested, and could not be divested by any subsequent event; and that the plaintiff having a right to recover this from *De França*, could not demand it of the underwriters. 2. That even supposing the plaintiff entitled to any thing, yet, as the voyage mentioned in the charter party was divisible, he could only demand for freight from *Madeira* to *Jamaica*, the freight from *London* to *Madeira* being clearly earned.—But the court were of opinion that one of the perils insured against having rendered it impossible for the master to receive the freight at *Madeira*, and the ship being thereby prevented from performing the remainder of the voyage, *De França* was not obliged to pay the freight; and therefore the plaintiff was entitled to recover.

SECT. III.

What Risks are excluded by the usual Memorandum.

BY the agreement of the parties, the general words of the policy may be altered or qualified, and any of the risks may be wholly or in part excluded and the insurance made only against some particular risks, or up to, or beyond, certain degrees, or upon particular articles.

In order to confine insurances to that which ought to be their only object, namely, an indemnity against real and important losses, arising from the perils of the sea; and to obviate disputes respecting losses arising from the perishable quality of the goods insured, and all trivial subjects of difference and litigation, it seems to be the general law of all maritime states, and it is expressly

Usual memorandum.

precisely provided by the ordinance of *Louis XIV.*, that the insurer shall not be liable for any partial loss, unless it exceed *one per cent.* (a); and this, by stipulation, is often augmented in *French* policies to three or four *per cent.* (b). Beside this, a clause has been introduced into the policies of most countries, by which it is stipulated that the insurer shall not be liable for any partial loss under a given rate *per cent.*—In *England*, it is now constantly stipulated in all policies, that upon certain enumerated articles of a quality peculiarly perishable, the insurer shall not be answerable for any partial loss whatever; that, upon certain others, liable to partial injuries, but less difficult to be preserved at sea, he shall only be liable for partial losses above five *per cent.*; and that, as to all other goods, and also the ship and freight, he shall only be liable for partial losses above three *per cent.*.

Its use.

This stipulation is made by a memorandum in the form of a warranty, inserted at the bottom of all *English* policies. It was first introduced here about the year 1749; before which time the insurer was liable for every injury, however small, that happened to the thing insured. It was therefore thought better, by such a stipulation, to free him from small partial losses, than to compensate him for the extraordinary risk, by adapting the premium to the nature of the commodity. This must, in such cases, either have rendered the calculation of the premium a matter of much nicety, or else have made the policy too complicated; a mode of insurance which was the less likely to be adopted here, as the *Dutch* had before tried it, and were afterwards obliged to abandon it (c).

But though all our policies thus provide against trivial demands on account of small partial losses, yet they all indemnify the insured against every loss, however inconsiderable, arising from any cause affecting the general safety of the ship and cargo. Losses of this sort, being of the nature of *general average*, are so called in the memorandum; and there is, therefore, annexed to each of the

(a) Vid. *Valin*, on art. 47. h. t. p. 113.—(b) *Pathier*, h. t. n. 165.—(c) 3 *Bur.* 1551.

Ch. VII. § 3.] *Excluded by the Memorandum.*

provisions above mentioned, an exception of general average. In the policies of private insurers, the case of the *stranding of the ship* is likewise excepted.

In the common policies used in *London* by private underwriters, the memorandum runs thus:

‘ N. B. Corn (*a*), fish, salt (*b*), fruit, flour and seed, are warranted free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded:—Sugar, tobacco, hemp, flax, hides and skins, are warranted free from average, under *five per cent.*; and all other goods, also the ship and freight, are warranted free from average, under *three per cent.* unless general, or the ship be stranded (*c*).’

This form of the memorandum was generally used, not only by private underwriters, but also by the two insurance companies, from its first introduction in 1749, till the year 1754, when a case occurred on a policy on *corn*, where the ship being *stranded*, the insured recovered a partial loss to the amount of about 80*l per cent.*—Lord C. J. *Ryder* and a special jury, considering the words, ‘ *free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded,*’ as a *condition*, and holding that by the ship’s being stranded, the insured was let in to prove his *whole partial loss* (*d*).

(*a*) The term *corn* comprehends every sort of grain, and also peas and beans. Vid. *Mason v. Skurray*, inf. — (*b*) The term *salt* does not comprehend *salt petre*. Per *Wilson J.* at N. P. after *East. 27 G. III. in Journu v. Bourdieu*. — (*c*) The only material difference between the memorandum of private underwriters, and those of the two insurance companies, consists in this, that the latter omit the words ‘ *or the ship be stranded,*’ and insert *rum* among the articles upon which they will not be liable for any partial loss under five *per cent.*. They also omit *freight* out of the articles upon which there shall be no partial loss under three *per cent.*—Vid. the forms of the different policies in the schedule to the 35 G. III. c. 63. and in the Appendix, numbers I. and II.——(*d*) There is a note in 2 *Mag.* 385. in which this case is loosely mentioned, as affording a reason for striking the words, “ *or the ship be stranded,*” out of all policies. But the case as cited by Sir *Fletcher Norton*, as above, is the only one to be relied on. Vid. 7 T. R. 222.

In

The two insurance companies omit the words, "or the ship be stranded."

In consequence of this determination, the *London Assurance* company, in their policies, left out of the memorandum, the words 'or the ship be stranded;' and the *Royal Exchange Assurance* soon after adopted the same alteration. Private underwriters, however, have continued the memorandum in its old form, probably with a view to encourage merchants to insure with them, in preference to the two insurance companies; and it must be owned, that cases may occur where the difference may be of considerable importance to the insured.

Construction of the words, "free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded."

Much doubt has arisen as to the true meaning of the words, 'free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded;' and a different construction having been put on this clause by judges of the highest eminence, the best mode, perhaps, of shewing how it is now understood, will be to state the various decisions upon it, subsequent to the above case of *Cantillon v. Lond. Assurance*, in the order of time in which they occurred.

The word *unless* has been held to make an exception, not a condition.

In the first of these, which was determined in the year 1764, the only point decided by the court was, that the underwriters were, by the memorandum, exempted from any responsibility for a partial loss, sustained by a cargo of corn in a storm; the ship not having been *stranded*, and this not being a *general average*.—But it will appear, that lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court, over-rules the decision of Sir *Dudley Ryder* in *Cantillon v. London Assurance*, and founds his judgment on the ground, that the above words do not make a condition, but only an exception; and that the insurer is liable only for partial losses upon corn, &c. arising from the ships being stranded, or of the nature of a *general average*; but to no other partial losses.

Wilson v. Smith,
3 Burr. 1550.

A ship, with a cargo of corn, having met with a storm, is obliged to run for the nearest port to refit, where she incurs a considerable expence in repairs. On her arrival at her

That was an insurance on a cargo of wheat, 'At
' and from *Lancaster* to *Rotterdam*.'—The policy contained the usual memorandum.—It appeared that the ship, in her voyage, met with a violent storm, by which she was obliged to part from her cable and anchor, for the safety of the ship and cargo; that she was greatly damaged, and obliged to run for the first port, being *Liverpool*, to refit, where she incurred a considerable expence in refitting; that the ship being refitted, she proceeded on her voyage,

voyage, and arrived at *Rotterdam*, where the wheat was landed, and appeared to have received damage by the storm, to the amount of 56*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* *per cent.*—The question was, upon the above clause, whether this could be recovered against the insurer.—For the plaintiff, it was contended, that the words of the memorandum amounted to a *condition* to be free from average, unless, in the case of a *general average*, or the stranding of the ship: But, if *either* of these events should happen, this warranty was discharged; and as an authority for this, the cause of *Cantillon v. London Assurance* (a), was relied on—On the other side, it was insisted, that these words only made an *exception*, to be free from average in all other cases, but these two; and as neither of them had happened in this instance, the insured had no claim on the insurer.—The court were of this opinion, and gave judgment for the defendant.—Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said—“That an ambiguity arose in the policy, from its using the words *average* in different senses; it being used to signify a *contribution to a general loss*, and also a *particular partial loss*; that, whether taken in the one sense or the other, it would not avail the plaintiffs; for if it signified *contribution*, the insurer was to be free from contributing, unless the contribution were *general*; if it signified *loss*, then plainly the warranty was, that the insurer should be free from all *particular losses*; that the insurer was liable for all losses arising from a stranding of the ship, and where there was a *general average*; but that all other *partial losses* were excluded by the terms of the policy; that the word *unless* meant the same as *except*, and was not to be construed as a *condition*, in the sense contended for (b); and that the words ‘free from average, *unless general*,’ could never mean to leave the insurer liable to any *particular average*.”

port of destination, it is found that the corn is greatly damaged.—It was held that this loss, not being of the nature of a *general average*, nor arising from the ship's being stranded, cannot be recovered; the words of the memorandum not making a *condition*, but only an *exception*.

(a) *Sup.* 223.—(b) Lord *Kenyon* in his judgment on the case of *Burnet v. Kensington*, *inf.* 234. considers this as an *obiter dictum*, which does not bring conviction to his mind.

Mason v. Stur-
ray, at N. P. af-
ter *Hil.* 1780.

A cargo of *corn* arrives at the port of delivery so damaged in the voyage as to be worth less than the freight:— Yet, the ship not having been *stranded*, and it not being a *general average*, the insurer is not liable.

Effect of usage
upon this con-
tract.

The next was a *nisi prius* case, before lord *Mansfield*, in 1780, and was an insurance on a cargo of *peas* (a), 'from *London* to *St. Augustine*;'—The peas arrived at the port of destination, but so much damaged in the voyage, that they produced but about one-fourth of the amount of the *freight*; which, as the ship arrived at her port of discharge, became due.—The insured brought an action to recover as for a total loss.—The defence was, that, if the goods mentioned in the memorandum arrived *at the market*, though a loss equivalent to a total loss had happened, the insurer was not liable.—Four or five witnesses, conversant in settling losses upon policies, proved that the usage, in such cases, was, to hold the underwriter discharged.—Lord *Mansfield*, in his address to the jury, said,—“This is a question of consequence, and turns upon the general import of the exception. The witnesses examined have put it on that point, and they hold, that if the specific thing come to the port of delivery, the underwriter cannot be called upon. Before the year 1749 (b), when the policy was general, and operated as an indemnity, there was little difference between a total and a partial loss.”—Having then stated the case of *Boyfield v. Brown* (c), which, he observed, was prior to the memorandum in question, he said—“But the cases now stand upon that memorandum, which is in very general words: The question is, whether the usage has not explained the generality of the words. If it has, every man, who contracts under an usage, does it as if the point of usage were inserted in the contract *in terms*. The witnesses all swear it to have been understood, that if the specific thing come to the market, the memorandum warrants the insurer to be free from any demand as for a partial loss.”—The jury found for the defendant.

Though the case of *Boyfield v. Brown* was several years before, and this long after, the introduction of the

(a) *Peas*, in a former action on the same policy, had been holden to be *corn*, within the meaning of the memorandum.—

(b) Vid. Sup. 223.—(c) 2 Str. 1065. inf. c. 13. s. 1.

memorandum into policies of insurance, it is very difficult to reconcile them. Lord *Mansfield* seems inclined to *distingnish* them, by observing, that before the year 1749, when the policy was general, there was little difference between a total and a partial loss; but that, since then, the cases stood on the memorandum.—It is true, that where there is but little difference between a total and a partial loss, it is of little importance, how the question is decided: But lord *Hardwick* was too good a lawyer not to be aware of the consequences likely to result from the precedent; and indeed it appears that, in the case of *Boyfield v. Brown*, he founded his judgment on the usage of trade, as it was in evidence; namely, that where the salvage exceeds the freight, the freight is deducted from the salvage, and the difference is the loss. From this his lordship very justly infers, that where the salvage falls short of the freight, the plaintiff is entitled to have it considered as a total loss.

The following case, which came before the court some years after the above case of *Mason v. Skurray*, was decided upon the same principle, or rather carried the principle farther.

An insurance was made 'on ship and goods, at and from *Newfoundland* to her port of discharge in *Portugal*,' with the usual memorandum.—The defendant paid into court 16*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, viz. 8*l.* 15*s.* *per cent.* as *general* average on the cargo, and 8*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* as a *particular* average on the ship.—There was a verdict for the plaintiff for 51*l.* 15*s.*, subject to the opinion of the court. on a case, which stated,—That the ship sailed on the voyage insured on the 2d of *December* 1783, with a cargo of fish; that on the 11th, 40 quintals were hove over board, for the preservation of the ship and cargo; that on the 20th, 26 quintals more were thrown overboard, for the same purpose; that the ship had very bad weather till the 10th of *January*, when she was obliged to put into *Lisbon*, though bound to *Figara*; that at *Lisbon* she was surveyed by the board of health, at the desire of the captain, who was the consignee; and it appeared to them that the cargo, through sea damage, was

Cocking v. Fraser,
B. R. East. 25 G.
III. MS.

If the enumerated articles, *specifically remain*, though, by sea damage, they are rendered of no value, and the ship has not been stranded, the insurer is not liable.

rendered of no value; that the ship, therefore, did not proceed to *Figara* — Upon this case the court were of opinion, that the underwriter was answerable for no more than he had paid into court on account of general average on the cargo, and particular average on the ship. — Lord *Mansfield* said, — “The clause relative to fruit and fish is now a very old one in policies of insurance. The insurer undertakes for all losses upon these articles, except particular damage, within a certain amount, unless the ship be stranded; he therefore engages against a total loss. Now a total loss of the thing insured, is the absolute destruction of it by the wreck of the ship. The fish may all come to port, though, from the nature of the commodity, it may be damaged, it may be stinking: Still, as the commodity specifically remains, the underwriter is discharged (a)” — Mr. Justice *Buller* said, — “That from the first introduction of the clause in 1749, to the present time, the underwriter has never been held answerable, but where there has been a total loss of the articles mentioned in it.”

In the next case which occurred on this subject, lord *Kenyon*, at *nisi prius*, held, that where the ship has been stranded, the articles mentioned in the memorandum are put in the same situation as any other commodity; and that the insurers become liable for all damage which they may sustain, though not arising from the stranding.

Bowring v. Elmslie, at N. P. after Tr. 1790. cited 7 T. R. 216.

The memorandum controls the general words of the policy, as far as it extends. But, upon a stranding the enumerated articles are put in the same situation as any other commodity; and the insurers become liable for all damage sustained by them, though not arising from the stranding.

There, an insurance was made on fish on board the *Nymph*, ‘from *Chaleur Bay* to her port or ports of discharge, in *England, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, or Italy*,’ with the usual memorandum. — An action was brought

(a) *Pothier*, (*Contrats Maritimes*, n. 59.) holds, that if a cargo of corn become entirely rotten, the insured cannot abandon; this being only a simple average, which would not excuse the insured from paying the stipulated freight. His reason is, that though the corn be damaged or spoiled, it still exists. The damage does not operate an entire loss, and the owner is not deprived of it. Vid. *Emerig.* vol. 2. p. 184. But see the observations of lord *Kenyon* on this judgment of lord *Mansfield*, in *Burnett v. Kensington*, inf. 234. and those of lord *Alvanley* upon it in *Dyson v. Rowcroft*, inf. 238.

on the policy to recover a partial loss sustained by the fish, the ship having been, as the declaration stated, *stranded*; that is, she was in such a leaky condition, that the captain and crew thought it necessary to run her on shore off *Nialaga*, for their own preservation, thinking it would be impossible to get her into port.—On the part of the defendant, there was evidence to shew that there was no necessity for running the ship on shore, but that it had been done with a fraudulent intention; and it was contended, that even supposing the ship to have been unavoidably stranded, the greatest part of the damage sustained by the fish was occasioned by its having been too long on board, and not by any defect in the ship, or by her being stranded.—Lord *Kenyon*, after stating the evidence to the jury, told them, that if they should think that the captain and crew acted *bonâ fide*, and that the ship was run on shore from necessity, a further question would arise upon the construction of the memorandum, which, like the policy itself, must be interpreted by the usage of merchants.—It being then signified to his lordship, by the merchants in court, that there was no usage upon the subject, and that the question, never having before occurred, was then for his decision; he proceeded to observe, “That the general mode of construing deeds to which there are exceptions, was, to let the exception control the instrument as far as the words of it extend, and no farther; and then, upon the case being taken out of the letter of the exception, the deed operates in full force; that, agreeably to this rule, it seemed to him that the stranding of the ship put fish in the same situation as any other commodity not mentioned in the memorandum, and the underwriters were liable for all damage sustained by it; for otherwise there would be a very considerable difficulty in ascertaining how much of the loss arose from the perils insured against, and how much from the perishable nature of the commodity, which was the very thing the memorandum was intended to prevent.”—But a verdict was given for the defendant, on the ground that the ship had been run on shore fraudulently.

This revived lord
C. J. Ryder's
doctrine in
Cuntillon v. Lond.
Affur.

The above opinion of lord *Kenyon* is conformable to that of Sir *Dudley Ryder*, in the case of *Cuntillon v. Lond. Assurance (a)*. It does not however appear by the note of the case, that any of the decisions subsequent to that case, were cited upon that occasion. Indeed it would seem, from the manner in which lord *Kenyon* delivered his opinion, that none of them had been mentioned; and as the defendant obtained a verdict upon another ground, the opinion delivered at the trial never became the subject of any further discussion.

The next case upon this subject came before the court of King's Bench in 1792, and there it was determined, that if a mob of rioters board a ship, and oblige the captain to sell a quantity of corn at an inferior price; the loss upon this is not in nature of a general average.—But if, in consequence of this boarding, the ship be stranded, and a quantity of corn be lost; this is a loss by *stranding* within the memorandum, for which the insured may recover upon a count applicable to such loss.

Nesbit v. Luff-
ington, 4 T. R.
983.

A mob of rioters board a ship, and oblige the captain to sell a quantity of corn at an inferior price; the loss upon this, is not in nature of a general average.—If, in consequence of this boarding, the ship be *stranded*, and a quantity of corn be thereby lost, this is a loss by *stranding* within the memorandum; but the owner can only recover for it, upon a count for a loss by *stranding*.

An insurance was made on a cargo consisting of ~~wheat~~ and coals from *Youghall* to *Sligo*. The ship was forced by stress of weather into *Elly Harbour*, in *Ireland*, and there happening to be then a great scarcity of corn at that place, the people came on board the ship in a tumultuous manner, took the government of her from the captain and crew, and weighed her anchor, by which she drove upon a reef of rocks, where she was stranded, and they would not leave her till they obliged the captain to sell all the corn, except about ten tons, at a certain rate. The ten tons were, however, spoiled, in consequence of the stranding, and obliged to be thrown overboard. The ship afterwards arrived at *Sligo* with the coals, which were but a small part of the cargo.—There were two counts in the declaration, one alledging the loss to have been by the *detention of certain people*; the other by *pirates*; but no count for a loss by *stranding*.—The insured never abandoned; and, as the cargo produced three-fourths of its original value, there could be no total loss. There

was, however, a verdict for the plaintiff, as for a total loss.—Upon a motion to set aside this verdict, it was contended on the part of the insured, that as the captain was obliged to let the people take the corn, to induce them to spare the rest of the cargo, this was a *general average*, and within the exception in the memorandum. But, even supposing this not to be a general average, yet, that the meaning of the memorandum must be confined to the sort of damage which is naturally incident to the commodities there specified, being of a perishable nature, and liable to a peculiar species of deterioration, not common to other articles; and that a loss by irresistible force, to which any other goods were equally liable, could never be within the meaning of the memorandum, which was to prevent disputes in these articles subject to heat and putrefaction.—But the court determined that the plaintiff could not recover in this action; because the loss upon the corn which was *sold*, could not be imputed to the *stranding*; and, as to the ten tons thrown overboard, though that was a loss occasioned by the *stranding*, yet the plaintiff could not recover for it, because there was no count in the declaration applicable to such a loss.—Lord *Kenyon* said, “That if a partial loss could have been recovered upon this policy, the plaintiff might have recovered for the loss by *pirates*. But as this was a policy on *corn*, the underwriter was liable for no average, unless general, or the ship were stranded; that this was not a *general average*, because the whole adventure was never in jeopardy; for the persons who took the corn, intended no injury to the ship, or any other part of the cargo but the corn; and therefore the owners of the corn could never have called on the other owners to contribute, as upon a general average; that the meaning of the memorandum was, that as it might be difficult to ascertain whether a damage to the articles enumerated in it arose from accident, or the nature of the articles themselves, this memorandum was inserted in all policies to prevent disputes, by providing that the insurer should not pay any average on those articles, unless general, or the ship were stranded; that when the ship is stranded, the underwriters agree to ascribe the loss to

The meaning of the memorandum.

the stranding, as being the most probable occasion of the damage, though that fact cannot always be ascertained."—Mr. Justice *Buller* agreed, "that there could be no general average, for the reasons already given. And, as to the stranding, he said the insured were entitled to recover, for any loss occasioned by stranding, provided it were an immediate and direct consequence of the stranding (a); and therefore the loss of that which was thrown overboard being ascribable to the stranding, and being a direct and immediate consequence of the peril insured against, might have been recovered, had there been any count in the declaration, applicable to a loss by stranding. But that the loss upon the corn taken by the rioters, was not the consequence of the stranding, but the rioters took possession of the ship, in order to get at the corn; and this was the cause, and not the consequence of the stranding."

If the ship be not stranded, the insured cannot recover for any partial loss, however great, unless it be a general average.

In the next case which occurs on this subject, lord *Kenyon*, at *nisi prius*, adopts the principle of the cases of *Mason v. Skurray* (b), and *Cocking v. Fraser* (c); namely, that, in the case of any of the enumerated articles, where the ship has not been stranded, the insured cannot recover for any partial loss, however great, which is not of the nature of a general average; and that, in such case, he can only recover as for a total loss; and then the voyage must either have been lost, or the goods wholly destroyed.

McAndrews v. Vaughan, at N.P. after Mich. 1793. Park 114.

A cargo of fruit is captured and re-captured, and brought to the port of destination, but damaged 80 per cent. by the delay.

As there was neither a stranding, nor a total loss by the capture, the insurer is not liable, either to a partial, or a total loss.

That was an insurance on fruit from *Lisbon* to *London*. It appeared that the ship was captured, recaptured, and brought into *Portsmouth*, from whence she afterwards came to *London*; that the cargo, in consequence of the length of the voyage, occasioned by the capture, had sustained damage to the amount of 80 per cent.; that the insured never heard of the capture, till the ship was safe at *Portsmouth*, and then offered to abandon.—Lord *Ken-*

(a) This doctrine is conformable to the sentiments of lord *Mansfield* in the cases of *Wilson v. Smith*, sup. 224. and *Cocking v. Fraser*, sup. 227. But since the case of *Burnett v. Kensington*, which will be cited presently, that doctrine has been quite exploded.—(b) Sup. 226.—(c) Sup. 227.

son, who tried the cause, said,—“As there has been no *stranding*, there cannot be a recovery for a partial loss. The question then is, Whether the insured can recover as for a *total* loss? Had the plaintiff *heard* of the capture only, he might have abandoned: But he hears nothing of the accident, till the ship is in safety. The cargo arrives at the port of destination; and though it is good for very little; yet it has invariably been held, that the voyage must either have been lost, or the cargo, (if it be one of the articles mentioned in the memorandum), must be wholly and actually destroyed, to entitle the insured to recover.”—The plaintiff was nonsuited.

To recover in such case as for a total loss, the voyage must either have been lost, or the goods wholly destroyed.

It may not be improper here to observe, that the concluding words of the learned judge, taken in an unqualified sense, might mislead persons not familiar with the law of insurance. Under the memorandum, the insured would be entitled to recover for *any partial loss*, however small, of the nature of a *general average*: For instance, he might recover his proportion of the salvage to the recaptors. His Lordship's words ought therefore to be understood, as he must have intended them, to relate only to the case before him, where the question was, whether the insured could recover for the particular damage done to the fruit, in consequence of the *length of the voyage*, occasioned by the capture, which was a partial loss, not of the nature of general average.

Thus far has remained undetermined, the important question, whether the words, ‘*or the ship be stranded*,’ make a *condition*, so as to let in the insured, upon that event happening, to prove his whole partial loss upon any of the enumerated articles, from whatever cause such loss may have arisen, as it was originally held by Sir *Dudley Ryder* (a); and afterwards by lord *Kenyon* (b):—Or whether those words amount only to an *exception*; so as to confine the liability of the insurer to partial losses arising from the stranding only; according to the opi-

It is now settled, that if the ship be stranded, the insurer is liable for any partial loss in any of the articles, though it did not arise from the stranding, but from some other cause.

(a) In *Cantillon v. Lond. Assur.* sup. 2. 3.—(b) In *Bowring v. Elmſlie*, sup. 228. and *Nesbitt v. Lushington*, sup. 230.

mions of lord *Mansfield* (a), and of Mr. Justice *Buller* (b).—But at length, in the following case, this question came directly before the court of King's Bench; and it was there, after solemn argument, and upon great consideration, determined, that a stranding destroys the exception in the memorandum, and lets in the general words of the policy; and that, therefore, where the ship has been stranded, the insurer is liable for any partial loss sustained by any of the enumerated articles, though such loss did not arise from the stranding, but solely from some other cause.

Burnet v. Kensington, 7 T. R. 210. S. C. Esp. Rep. 416.

A ship, with a cargo of fruit, strikes on a sunken rock, and receives great damage, so that it becomes necessary to run her on shore, to save both ship and cargo. The ship, however, arrives at her port of destination, but with the fruit greatly damaged, not by the *stranding*, but solely in consequence of the striking on the rock.—The insurer is liable for this partial loss, though it did not arise from the stranding.

That was the case of an insurance on *fruit* on board the *Commerce*, 'At and from *Malaga* and *Velez Malaga* to *Plymouth* and *Portsmouth*.'—The plaintiff declared as for a total loss of the goods insured, by the perils of the sea, and the *stranding of the ship*.—It appeared that the ship, on the 29th of *January* 1795, in the course of the voyage, arrived off *Scilly*, and that morning struck upon a sunken rock, about three leagues from the island; that she did not remain on the rock; but, in consequence of the striking thereon, several of her planks were started, and the water immediately flowed into the hold and over the cargo, and continued to increase in the hold for about three hours; that about noon the same day, the ship was stranded upon the beach at *Scilly*, by the captain, under the directions of the pilot from the island, in order to save the ship and cargo; that the ship continued some time on the beach, during which the water flowed in and over part of the cargo, at the return of the tide; that she was afterwards got off, proceeded on her voyage, and arrived at *Plymouth* on the 24th of *February* with the greatest part of her cargo; that the fruit was very much damaged, and a small part of it left at *Scilly*, being entirely unfit for use; that the ship received no damage in consequence of the *stranding*; but the damage she received was entirely from the *rock* on which she struck,

(a) In *Wilson v. Smith*. sup. 224. and *Cocking v. Fraser* sup. 227.—(b) In *Nesbitt v. Lushington*, sup. 230.

which alone occasioned the damage to the cargo, partly by the water which flowed into the ship previous, partly by that which flowed in subsequent, to the stranding.—There was a verdict for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court upon the above facts.—The only question was, whether, as the ship was in fact stranded in the course of her voyage, the insurers were liable for a partial loss, arising solely from the perils of the sea, and not from the act of stranding.—The court, after two arguments, were of opinion that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the whole partial loss.—Lord Kenyon said, —“ The words of the policy are general, including all cases : Then comes the memorandum, “ corn, “ fish, salt, fruit, flour, and seed, warranted free from “ average, *unless general or the ship be stranded.*” This, therefore, lets in a general average ; and I do not know how to construe the words grammatically, but by saying, that if the ship be stranded, that destroys the exception, and lets in the general words of the policy. If a general provision be made in any instrument, and it be there said, that certain things shall be excepted, unless another thing happen ; if that other thing do happen, it destroys the exception, and gives effect to the general operation of the deed.—Without entering into the reasons for introducing this exception, on the grammatical construction of the whole, I have no doubt.—The case of *Cantillon v. Lond. Ass. Comp.* as stated by Sir Fletcher Norton, in 3 Bur. 1553(a), which is better authority than *Magens*, is a judicial decision on the very point, by a jury of merchants, under the directions of Lord C. J. Ryder, who held that the words, “ *or the ship be stranded,*” amounted to a condition, and that, by the ship’s being stranded, the insured was let in to claim his whole partial loss. This decision was acquiesced in at the time, and the insurance companies altered the form of their policies in consequence of it. Generally speaking, if I were bound to decide between the opinions of lord Mansfield and lord C. J. Ryder, perhaps I should be guided by the former in preference to the latter : But what fell from him in

If the ship be stranded, that destroys the exception, and lets in the general words of the policy.

Lord Mansfield's doctrine, in the case of *Cocking v. Frazer*, questioned.

the case of *Wilson v. Smith* (a) was only an *obiter dictum*; and I confess it does not bring conviction to my mind. With regard to *Cocking v. Frazer* (b), it is sufficient to say, that there was no stranding in that case: What was there said was likewise an *obiter dictum*; and I cannot subscribe to the opinion there given, that ‘*if the commodity specifically remain, the underwriter is discharged.*’ But if fish be deteriorated by the accident of *stranding*, the underwriters would be answerable, though the article specifically remained. If it had been intended that the underwriters should only be answerable for the damage that arises in consequence of the stranding, a small variation of expression would have removed all difficulty; they would have said, unless for losses *occasioned* by stranding: But, in the body of the policy, they have insured against all losses from the causes there enumerated, which include stranding; and then follows this memorandum, the evident meaning of which is, ‘free from average unless general, or *unless* the ship be stranded:’ So that, if the ship be stranded, the insurers say they will be answerable for an average loss. That appears to me to be the true sense and grammatical construction of the policy; and thinking so, I am bound to give the same opinion I formerly gave (c), not because I gave that opinion before, but because I am convinced by the reasoning that led to it,”—Mr. Justice *Asbhurst* said,—“As it is difficult, where a ship is stranded, to determine whether or not the damage to the cargo arose from the stranding, or in what degree it was imputable to that cause, this memorandum seems to have been introduced to avoid that inquiry, and that, when the ship has been stranded, the insurers consent to ascribe the loss to that cause, This construction, which has already been put on the memorandum in the cases of *Cantillon v. Lond. Ass. Comp.* and *Nesbitt v. Lybbington*, will prevent endless litigation.”—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“Although the jury found that part of the

(a) Sup. 224. — (b) Sup. 227. Vid. sup. 228. note (a). — (c) In the cases of *Nesbitt v. Lybbington*, sup. 230. and *Bowring v. Elmslie*, sup. 228.

damage happened *after* the stranding; it is also found as a fact, that the ship received no damage *in consequence of the stranding*, and if the ship had not been stranded, both the ship and cargo would have been totally lost. The question, therefore, is, whether an average loss is payable to any amount, however great, *from whatever cause it may arise*, if the ship happen to be stranded. If the exception in the memorandum be confined to losses *arising* from the stranding, it must be from this consideration, that otherwise it might be a temptation to the master to strand the ship, if any trifling damage were done to the cargo, to enable the insured to recover.— However, where the words of the policy are inaccurate, and where there are inconveniences attending each construction of it, if the case has ever been decided, I think we ought to be guided by it. In the case of *Wilson v. Smith*, lord *Mansfield* seemed to think, that the word “*unless*” did not create a *condition*; but that the meaning of the exception was, that the underwriters should only be liable for a partial loss in two cases, one where there is general average, the other where the damage *arises* from the stranding. But, in so considering it, lord *Mansfield* went beyond the facts of the case then before the court; for there the question was, whether the insured was entitled to recover a partial loss from the circumstance of his being intitled to a general average. Now the words of the exception are not “warranted free from average, *unless there be a general average, or unless the ship be stranded*;” but warranted free from average, “*unless general, or the ship be stranded.*” Therefore, as there is a difference in the expression of these two exceptions, perhaps it may be considered as a *condition*, as applied to the *stranding*, though it be not a condition, as applied to the *average*. If so, then there is only one authority in point, that of *Cantillon v. Lond Assurance*, in which case it was considered, that the stranding was a condition, and that the underwriters were liable on the happening of that condition. Therefore, as the very question has been once decided, I think it ought to govern our decision in this case, especially as the question

arises on the construction of an instrument so inaccurately penned as a policy of insurance."

If, by the perils of the sea, any of the enumerated articles be so damaged as to be of no value, though they remain in specie, this will be a total loss, against which the memorandum will not protect the underwriters.

*Dyball and others
v. Rowcroft,
3 Bos. & Pul.
474.*

A ship, with a cargo of fruit, is forced by stress of weather to put into a port out of the course of her voyage, and there finds the fruit spoiled by the sea water and rotten, and it becomes necessary to throw it overboard:—This is a total loss.

As where a cargo of *fruit* was insured from *Cadiz* to *London*, with the usual memorandum in the policy.—

The ship sailed on the 15th of *February* 1802, but was forced by storms and tempestuous weather, first to put into *Palma*, and afterwards into *Santa Cruz*, where she arrived the 3d. of *May*. There it was found that the fruit had received so much damage from the sea water that it was rotten, and stunk to so great a degree that the government there prohibited the landing of it; and it was necessarily thrown overboard. The ship was also so much damaged as to be unable to proceed on the voyage, and was necessarily sold.—Upon this case the court determined that the insured were entitled to recover as for a total loss.—Lord *Alvanley* said:—"The meaning of the memorandum is, that, unless the consequence of the damage be the total loss of the commodity, the underwriter does not agree to be answerable: But if the commodity be totally lost to the insured, he undertakes to pay. Cases like the present are generally suspicious. If the voyage be protracted, deterioration necessarily takes place; and it becomes the interest of the insured to turn this into a total loss. We ought, indeed, to look at this case with suspicion, where there is so much temptation to throw the cargo overboard. But here there was a manifest necessity for doing so. Had it not been thus annihilated, it would have been annihilated by putrefaction. The case of *Cocking v. Fraser* (a) was the only thing that raised any doubt in my mind. But the authority of that case is much shaken by the observations of lord *Kenyon* in *Burnet v. Kensington* (b).—Mr. Justice *Heath* said:—"As the cargo was necessarily thrown overboard, the case does not fall within the ex-

(a) Sup. 227.—(b) Sup. 234.

ception in the memorandum, and is not governed by the case of *Cocking v. Frazer*. Had it been the same in circumstances as *Cocking v. Frazer*, it would have been necessary for us to consider how far that case has been impeached by the observations of lord Kenyon in *Burnet v. Kensington*."—Mr. Justice Chambre said:—"The cargo being necessarily thrown overboard, and the ship being unable to proceed, this made a complete end of the voyage: And though the cargo might be said to exist in *specie*, yet, in value, it did not exist at all. By the memorandum the underwriters protect themselves against partial damages; because the enumerated articles being perishable in their nature, it would be impossible to ascertain with exactness what part of the loss arose from the nature of the commodity, and what from sea-damage. If ever there was a case of total loss, it certainly is the present."

Notwithstanding the number of cases which have been decided upon the construction of the memorandum, it still remains a question, whether the losses from which the insurer is exempted by it, comprehend the *total loss* of an *entire individual*, as well as a partial injury to the *whole* of the species of goods which are exempted by the memorandum from small average losses: As if out of 101 hogsheds of sugar of equal value, five are so completely spoiled in the voyage as to be worth nothing, and therefore *totally lost*.—If this loss be calculated upon the whole 101 hogsheds, it will not amount to five *per cent*.—In such a case, it has been thought, that the insurer would be protected by the memorandum, (a). As the question has never, I believe, been directly agitated in our courts, I will not presume to say how it ought to be decided.

Whether the memorandum exempts the insurer from the *total loss* of an *entire individual*.

As to what shall amount to a *stranding*, within the meaning of the memorandum, two cases have occurred where that was the principal question. In the first of these it appeared that a ship having run on some wooden piles, four feet under water, erected in *Wisbeach* river,

Meaning of the word *stranding*.

Dobson v. Belton, at G. H. after Easter 1799.

(a) Vid. 1 *Mag.* 73. 2 *Bur.* 1170.

about nine yards from the shore, but placed there to keep up the banks of the river, and lay on these piles till they were cut away.—Lord *Kenyon* told the jury that this was a stranding, within the meaning of the memorandum, so as to let in the insured to claim a partial loss on corn.

Baring v. Henkle,
before lord *Ken-*
yon, at G. R.
July 13th 1801.

A ship, in the river, is run foul of by two other vessels, and driven aground, where she remains an hour:—This is not a stranding.

The other case was an insurance on *fruit*, on board the *San Pietro*, bound to the port of *London*. The ship arrived in the *Thames*; but upon her coming up to the *Pool*, which was full of vessels, one brig ran foul of her bow, and another of her stern, in consequence of which she was driven aground, and continued in that situation an hour, during which period several other vessels ran foul of her.—To prove that this was a *stranding*, within the meaning of the memorandum so as to entitle the insured to recover for a partial damage to the fruit, it was contended that, though every *touching* of the ground could not be deemed a stranding; yet, that a ship's taking the ground, and *remaining* there a considerable time, must necessarily be considered as a stranding, whether it proceeded from the violence of the wind, or from an accident, as in this case; for a stranding did not depend on the nature of the ground on which the vessel was cast, or the means by which she was thrown there, nor the length of time she remained in that situation.—On the other side it was insisted that the memorandum would be of little use, and the situation of the insurer precarious indeed, if this could be considered as a stranding; that, on the contrary, that only could be deemed a stranding, within the meaning of the memorandum, where a ship was either cast on shore by the violence of the winds and waves, or run aground to avoid a greater danger.—Lord *Kenyon* told the jury that unskilled as he was in nautical affairs, he thought he could safely pronounce this to be no stranding.—The jury were of this opinion, and found a verdict for the defendant.

Sect. IV.

For what Losses the Owners and Master of the Ship are liable.

THERE are certain injuries and losses to which goods on ship-board are exposed, which cannot properly be said to arise from the perils of the sea; but are imputable to the owners of the ship, or to the negligence or misconduct of the persons employed by them on board. In all such cases, the owners, in respect of the freight, are answerable to the owner of the goods for such loss or damage, subject, however, to certain regulations and restrictions which we shall presently have occasion to notice.

Losses not arising from the perils of the sea, and for which the owners are liable.

Thus, if any loss or damage happen to the goods, from any fault or defect of the ship, not arising from sea damage, or from any accident or misfortune in the voyage, but from some latent defect before she sailed; the owner of the goods has his remedy against the owners of the ship, for such loss or damage; and the insurer, in such case, is not liable, because, in every contract of insurance, there is an implied warranty, that the ship is sea-worthy; and if it appear that she was not so, the contract is void (a).

As damage happening by the fault of the ship.

In many cases, the master also, as well as the owners, is answerable; for though his appointment gives him no property in the ship, either general or special, yet it is the policy of the law to hold him responsible for all loss or damage that may happen to the goods committed to his charge, whether it arise from the negligence, ignorance, or wilful misconduct of himself or his mariners, or any other on board the ship. As soon, therefore, as goods are put on board, they are in the master's charge; and he is bound to deliver them again in the same state in which they were shipped; and he, as well as the owners,

In what cases the master also is liable.

(a) Vid. *Val.* tom. 1. p. 654. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 66. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 580. sup. ch. 5. §. 1..

They are answerable for loss or damage occasioned by bad stowage, wet, theft, embezzlement, rats, &c.

is answerable for all loss or damage they may sustain, unless it proceed from an inherent defect in the article, or from some accident or misfortune, which could not be foreseen or prevented. The master, therefore, as well as the owners, is liable for all injuries occasioned by bad stowage, or the goods being exposed to wet; for losses by theft or embezzlement of the mariners on board (a); and also for damage done by rats, unless it appear that all necessary precautions were used to prevent it (b).—This is the rule of the marine law (c), and with it agrees the common law of *England*, which considers the owners, as well as the master, as common carriers, and answerable for all losses, except such as arise from the act of God, the king's enemies, or the perils of the sea. This is strongly exemplified in the following case.

Morse v. Slue, Molloy, b. 2. c. 2. f. 1. S.C. 1 *Vent.* 190. 238 *T. Ray.* 220 1 *Dart.* 12. 3 *Kib.* 72. 112. 135.

A number of persons under pretence of being a press gang, enter a ship and carry away goods: The master is answerable, though he had taken all precautions.

A quantity of goods were sent on board a ship, and after they were stowed, a number of persons, under pretence of being press-masters, entered the ship in the night, and robbed her of the goods.—An action being brought against the master, by the owner of the goods, he contended that no negligence was imputable to him; that he had a sufficient guard on board, that the goods were all locked up under the hatches, and that the thieves came as press-masters, and by force robbed the ship; that this was that sort of *vis major*, which he could not resist; and that though he was master of the ship, yet he had no share in her, and was only in nature of a servant, acting for a salary.—But the court determined that the plaintiff was intitled to recover:—For the master, at his peril, must see that all things are forthcoming that are delivered to him, whatever accident may happen, the act of God, or the king's enemies, and the perils of the sea only excepted: But for fire, thieves, and the like, he must answer, as a common carrier, and though he

(a) *Mal. lex merc.* 117, 118. *Le Guidon*, c. 5. art. 5. and 6. *Cleirac*, p. 254. *Roc. n.* 49. *Emerig.* vol. 1. p. 377.—
 (b) *Emerig.* vol. 1. p. 377.—(c) *Vid. Roc. n.* 49. *Cleirac*, p. 254. *Le Guidon*, c. 5. art. 5. and 6. *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 1. f. 5. and c. 2. f. 2.

has no share in the ship, and only receives a salary, yet he is a *known public officer*, whom the law looks upon as answerable; and the owner of the goods has his election to charge either the master or the owners, or both, at his pleasure; though he can have but one satisfaction.

I take this case from *Molloy*, though it is reported in various other books, because he himself appears to have argued it. It seems to carry the principle of responsibility farther than it is carried by the marine law. Simple theft or embezzlement by persons on board, not being attributable to accident, is not deemed a peril of the sea (a). But robbery is a peril which cannot be foreseen or prevented (b). An insurer is not answerable for simple theft by persons on board the ship; because it may be reasonably attributed to the want of proper vigilance in the master: But he is liable for a robbery, committed with violence, by persons not belonging to the ship; for the word *thieves* in the policy means thieves *assailing from without*, and not thieves among the crew (c). Robbery, in this sense, is a species of piracy; indeed the only difference between robbery and piracy is, that the one is generally understood to be a plundering on land, the other a plundering at sea. *Inter piratam et latronem nulla alia est differentia, nisi quia pirata depredator est in mari* (d).—The robbery mentioned in the above case, unquestionably amounted to piracy, according to the opinion of lord *Kenyon* in *Nesbitt v. Lushington* (e), though it was committed in the river *Thames*; and this, by the marine law, is a peril of the sea: But the court, assimilating the case of a master of a ship, to that of a common carrier, held it no excuse that the defendant had taken all proper precautions for the safety of the goods, and that the robbery had been committed by persons *assailing from without*, and with a force which he was unable to resist.—It is to be observed, however, that it

The common law carries the principle of responsibility farther than the marine law.

(a) *Furtum non est casus fortuitus. Roc. n. 42.*—(b) *Latrocinium fatale damnum, seu casus fortuitus est. Roc. n. 43.*—(c) *Malyne, c. 25. Beawes 313, 5th ed.*—(d) *Santerna, p. 4, n. 50.*—(e) *Sup. 230.*

appears from the report of this case in *Ventris*, that lord C. J. *Hale*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said, "that this case was not to be measured by the rules of the admiral law; because the ship, which at the time of the robbery, lay in the river *Thames*, was *infra corpus comitatus*; and therefore the case did not differ from that of a common hoyman (a)."

If a loss happen in the shipping, or landing of goods, by the fault of the master or crew, or of the ship's tackle, the owners and master are each liable.

If goods are delivered to the master on shore, he is answerable for them as much as if delivered on board the ship (b). So is he answerable by the general law for the safety of the goods from plunder or damage, while they are in his boats or barges to be put on board or landed; because those boats or barges are considered as attached to, and making a part of the ship. And if any loss or damage happen in the shipping or landing of the goods, through the fault of the master or his crew, or the defect of the ship's tackle, the master and the owners are respectively answerable. If the loss or damage, in such case, be not imputable to the master or crew, or to the defect of the ship's tackle, then the insurer is answerable (c). But till the goods are safely landed and delivered to the consignee, the liability both of master and owners continues (d).

Now, by 7 G. II. c. 15. the owners shall be liable to the value of the goods and freight lost or done away by the master or mariners.

At common law, this liability of the owners and master of the ship extended to the full amount of the loss; and the *master's liability* still remains the same. But it was found that the liability of the owners of ships to the amount of the full value of goods put on board, and made away with by the master or mariners, very much tended to discourage persons from adventuring their fortunes as ship-owners; therefore the stat. 7 G. II. c. 15. provides, 'That no owner of any ship shall be liable for

(a) Vid. 1 Vent. 238.—(b) *Nauta qui recepit à Titio mercem in littore maris, si ibi merces perierint. periculo ipsius nauta percutit, tanquam si essent in navi receptæ et hoc procedit, quia sufficit nautam sic recipisse, & preterea in ejus periculo sunt. Recus de navib. n. 88.*—(c) *Le Guidon*, c. 5. art. 7. Vid. *Laws of Oleron*, art. 10. *Laws of Wisbeuy*, art. 49. *Emerig.* vol. 1. p. 678.—(d) *Emerig.* vol. 1. p. 679.

‘ any loss or damage occasioned by any embezzlement,
 ‘ secreting, or making away with any gold, silver, jewels,
 ‘ or other merchandize on board, or for any act, matter,
 ‘ damage, or forfeiture, done or incurred, by the master
 ‘ or mariners, without the privity or knowledge of the
 ‘ owners, further than the value of the ship, and the
 ‘ freight due for the voyage; and where there are several
 ‘ proprietors of the goods on board, and the value of
 ‘ the ship and freight be insufficient to compensate for
 ‘ the loss of each, they shall receive an average in proportion
 ‘ to their respective losses.—And they, as well
 ‘ as the owners of the ship, may exhibit a bill for a discovery
 ‘ of the amount of the loss, and the value of the
 ‘ ship, and for a distribution thereof; and if such bill
 ‘ be exhibited by the owners, they shall annex an affidavit
 ‘ that they do not collude with the defendants.—But it
 ‘ is provided, that this act shall not lessen the remedy
 ‘ against the master and mariners, in respect of such em-
 ‘ bezzlement, &c.’

As this act extends only to cases where the embezzlement, &c. is committed by the master or mariners, it was not found a sufficient protection to ship-owners; and therefore the stat. 26 G. III. c. 86. recites, “That all masters and owners of ships are, by law, respectively liable to answer for the full value of all goods shipped on board, notwithstanding such goods be lost by robbery, fire, or other accident, (other than the king’s enemies, the perils of the seas, or the act of God), or unless the master or some of the ship’s company be privy to such robbery, in which case alone the responsibility of the owners is, by the stat. 7 G. II. c. 15. limited to the value of the ship and freight.” It then enacts, ‘That no
 ‘ owner shall be answerable for any loss or damage by
 ‘ reason of any robbery, embezzlement, &c. of any goods
 ‘ on board, or for any act, &c. done without their privity
 ‘ or knowledge, beyond the value of the ship and freight,
 ‘ although the master or mariners shall not be
 ‘ concerned in the robbery, &c.; nor answerable for any
 ‘ loss or damage to goods occasioned by fire on board;
 ‘ nor shall the master or owners be liable for the loss of

The 26 G. III. c. 86. limits the liability of the owners to the value of the ship and freight; though the master or mariners be not privy, and they are exempt from loss by fire.

Neither the owners or master liable for plate, jewels, &c. unless inserted in bill of lading

‘ any gold, silver, jewels, &c. by means of any robbery,
 ‘ &c. unless the shipper insert in the bill of lading, or
 ‘ otherwise declare, the quality and value thereof.’

From these parliamentary regulations it appears, that though the responsibility of the master, except in the instance mentioned in the last clause, remains the same as it was before; yet, that of the owners is limited to the value of the ship and freight, in all cases of theft, embezzlement, &c. without their privity, whether by the crew, or by strangers; and that they are wholly exempt from all losses occasioned by fire.

But the insurer as well as the owners of the ship is liable for external thefts.

But though the owners are responsible to the amount of the value of the ship and freight, for losses occasioned by external thieves; yet, under the policy, the insurers are also liable (a); and therefore, in such cases, the proprietor of the goods, or the insurers in his name, may recover against the owners.

SECT. V.

What shall be the Duration of the Risk.

TO charge the insurer, it is not enough that a loss shall have happened at sea; it must appear to have happened in the course of the voyage described in the policy, and during the continuance of the risk insured against (b).

Every voyage insured must have a *terminus à quo* and a *terminus ad quem*. When the insurance is for a limited time, the two extremes of that time are the *termini* of the voyage insured. When a ship is insured, both outward and homeward, for one entire premium; this, with reference to the insurance, is considered but as one voyage; and the *terminus à quo* is also the *terminus ad quem*.

(a) *Harford v. Maynard*, before lord Mansfield at G. H. Hil. vac. 1785. *Park* 25. — (b) *Roccus*, h. t. n. 18.

For the sake of perspicuity, we will consider the duration of the risk, 1. With reference to insurances *upon goods*; 2. *Upon the ship*; and 3. *Upon freight*.

1. *Upon Goods.*

By the ordinances of *France*, and of most other countries, it is provided, that if the time of the risk be not regulated by the contract, it shall commence, *as to goods*, from the time they are put on board the ship, or put into barges, to be conveyed on board, that is, from the moment they leave the shore; and it continues till they are safely landed at their place of destination. And the insurer does not only run the risk while the goods are in the ship named in the policy, but also in the boats or lighters that shall be employed in bringing them on board and carrying them on shore. The reason assigned for this is, because the perils of the sea commence from the moment the goods are on the water, and continue till they are landed (a).

The time of the commencement and end of the risk on goods in other countries.

In our policies, the words usually employed to express the commencement and end of the risk on goods are these,—‘Beginning the adventure upon the said goods and merchandizes *from the loading thereof aboard the said ship*, and so shall continue and endure until the said ship with the said goods, shall be arrived at [her port of delivery], *and until the same be discharged and safely landed.*’—This clause is often varied by the agreement of the parties. Sometimes the risk on goods is made to commence from the loading thereof on board the ship specified at a particular place, in which case the policy will attach only upon such goods as are then put on board, and not upon goods shipped elsewhere, though they were the very goods meant to be insured, and were on board at the place specified.

In *England*,

If goods are to be shipped at a particular place, the policy will not cover goods shipped elsewhere, though they are the same goods.

Thus:—A policy was effected ‘on goods on board the *Chesterfield*, and on the ship, at and from the coast of

Roberts and another v. *French*, 4 *East* 130.

(a) Vid. 1 *Mag.* 44. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 14. Ord. of *Louis XIV.* tit. *Contrats à la grosse*, art. 5. Vid. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 63.

A ship and goods are insured, ‘from the coast of *Brazil* to the *Cape of Good Hope*. be-

‘ginning the adventure on the goods from the loading thereof on the coast of Brazil, from the 17th of September; and upon the ship in the same manner.’ The cargo is taken on board at the Cape:—The policy never attaches on these goods, though they are the goods meant to be insured, and are on board after the 17th of September on the coast of Brazil.—And the policy not attaching on the goods, does not attach on the ship.

‘Brazil, and after the 17th of September 1800; and upon the said ship in the same manner; and so shall continue upon the said ship during her abode there, and until the said ship and goods shall be arrived at Simon’s Bay or Table Bay; and upon the ship and goods until the goods be there discharged.’—The goods meant to be insured were put on board at the Cape of Good Hope, and the ship went from thence on the 17th of February 1800, and arrived on the coast of Brazil on the 30th of May, where she remained till November, when, on suspicion of illicit trading with the enemy, she was seized by some British ships of war, and carried again to the Cape with the original cargo on board, where the captors libelled against her in the vice-admiralty court. On intelligence of these circumstances the insured abandoned; and, in an action upon the policy, declared upon a loss by the arrest and restraint of the king’s ships.—The underwriters objected that the adventure on the cargo being, by the terms of the policy, made to commence from the loading of the goods on the coast of Brazil, an event which never happened, in as much as the goods were not loaded there, but at the Cape of Good Hope, the policy never attached on the cargo. They likewise objected that the adventure on the ship being, by the terms of the policy, made to begin ‘in the same manner’ with that on the goods, could of course have no commencement, if that on the goods never attached.—On the part of the plaintiffs it was contended that either the words, ‘from the loading thereof aboard the said ship,’ ought to be rejected; or, that these words were to be understood to mean, from the time of the ship’s being, with the goods on board her, or having the goods on board her, on the coast of Brazil.—The court determined that the risk could only commence on goods and the ship after a loading of goods had taken place on the coast of Brazil; and that, as that event had never taken place, the policy never attached either on goods or ship.—Lord Ellenborough, in delivering the opinion of the court, said, that the words, ‘on the coast of Brazil,’ having an apparently significant meaning, and referring distinctly to an act to be done at a given

a given place, could not be rejected or severed from the words, '*from the loading thereof aboard the said ship,*' with which they were necessarily united and connected in sense.

Under the usual form of our policies it is plain that the risk does not commence until the goods are actually on board the ship; and therefore the insurer is not answerable for any loss or damage which may happen to them, while they are on their passage to the ship. And it may be laid down as a general rule, that the risk on goods continues no longer than they are actually on board the ship mentioned in the policy, or in boats for the purpose of being landed; and that if they be removed from on board that ship and landed, or put on board another ship, without the consent of the insurers, the contract is at an end, and the insurers are discharged from all subsequent responsibility.

In general, the risk continues on goods while they are on board the ship mentioned in the policy.

But to this rule there are certain exceptions, founded in necessity, which it will be proper to mention in this place. Exceptions.

Where the ship is disabled in the course of the voyage, so as to be incapable of proceeding to her port of destination, and it becomes necessary to shift the goods insured on board another vessel, in order to be conveyed thither: In that case, though it has been thought that the insurers are thereby discharged (*a*), yet it is now clearly settled, that the risk continues, and that the insurers are liable for any loss that may happen to the goods on board the new ship (*b*).

Where the ship is disabled and the goods are put on board another vessel to be forwarded to their port of delivery.

So, if it be agreed that the goods insured may, at a particular place, in the voyage, be removed from on board the ship in which they are to be brought thither, and put on board other ships to be carried to their port of delivery; but, on their arrival at the place, there being no ships to receive them, they are put on board a *store-ship*, which is stationary there, to be kept till ships bound to their place of destination arrive: In this case,

Or, if it be agreed, that the goods shall be removed into another ship at a particular place in the voyage, and there being no ship there, they are put on board a *store-ship*.

(*a*) Vid. *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 7. f. 11. — (*b*) The subject of *changing the ship* has been already fully treated, sup. ch. 5. f. 2.

the risk continues on the goods on board the store-ship, and if they be lost on board her, the insurer is answerable. This was determined in the following case.

Tiernay v. Etherington, cited
1 Bur. 348.

Goods insured from A. to B. with liberty to put them into one or more ship or ships, at C. to be forwarded to B. their place of destination.—

There being no ships at C. when the goods arrive, they are put on board a store-ship till ships do arrive:—The risk continues in the store-ship.

Policies are to be construed largely for the benefit of trade.

An insurance on goods extends to carrying them on shore.

An insurance on goods to a place means the port to which goods destined for that place are usually sent.

An insurance was made on goods in a Dutch ship,—
‘ From Malaga to Gibraltar, and at and from thence to
‘ England and Holland, both or either; the adventure to
‘ begin from the loading, and continue till the ship and
‘ goods should arrive safe in England or Holland, and be
‘ there safely landed.’—It was agreed, ‘ that upon the
‘ arrival of the ship at Gibraltar, the goods might be un-
‘ loaded and rehipped on board one or more British ship
‘ or ships for England and Holland, and to return one
‘ per cent. if discharged in England.’—In an action on
this policy, it appeared in evidence, that when the ship
came to Gibraltar, the goods were unloaded and put into
a store-ship, (which it was proved was always considered
as a warehouse), and that there was then no British
ship there. Two days after, the goods on board the
store-ship, were lost in a storm.—In an action on the
policy, it was insisted for the defendant, that the insur-
ance was only on goods on board the Dutch and British
ships, and that it did not extend to the store-ship, which
is considered as a warehouse at land, and so not a peril
of the sea.—But it was ruled by lord C. J. Lee, that the
plaintiff was entitled to recover;—“ For,” said his lordship,
“ in the construction of policies, the *strictum jus*, or *apex
juris*, is not to be laid hold of; but they are to be con-
strued largely for the benefit of trade, and for the in-
sured. But it would be a strict construction to confine
this insurance to the unloading and reshipping, and the
accidents attendant thereon. The construction should
be according to the course of trade in this place, where the
usual method of unloading and reshipping is, that when
there is no British ship there, then the goods are kept in
store-ships. Where there is an insurance on goods on
board such a ship, that insurance extends to carrying the
goods on shore in a boat. So, if an insurance be on
goods to such a city, and the goods are brought in safety
to such a port, though distant from the city, that is a
compliance with the policy, if that be the usual place to
which

which the ships come. Therefore, as here is a liberty given of unloading and reshipping, it must be taken to be an insuring under such methods as are proper for unloading and reshipping. There is no neglect on the part of the insured, for the goods were brought into port the 19th and lost the 22d of *November*. This manner of unloading and reshipping is to be considered as the necessary means of attaining that which was intended by the policy, and seems to be the same as if had happened in the act of unshipping from one ship to another. This is not to be considered as a suspension of the policy; for as the policy would extend to a loss happening in the unloading and reshipping from one ship to another, so any means to attain that end come within the meaning of the policy."—Accordingly the plaintiff had a verdict.—A new trial was moved for; but it was refused by lord C. J. *Lee*, Mr. Justice *Chapple*, and Mr. Justice *Denison*; against the opinion of Mr. Justice *Wright*; who thought that it was a removal at the peril of the insured.

But the words of the above clause shew, that the risk on goods, in *English* policies, like foreign ones, continues till they are "*discharged and safely landed*" at the port of delivery.—And the insured has a right to land them at any wharf or place, within the port, where such goods are usually landed.—For instance, all the ships laden with hemp for the port of *London*, do not land it at the custom house; but it is often carried down the river in lighters, and landed at different wharfs on each side of the river. If, therefore, a cargo of hemp be insured from a foreign port to the port of *London*, and the consignee be desirous of landing it at *Woolwich*, *Chatham*, or any other place within the port of *London*, where hemp is usually landed, it would seem that he might send it in lighters from the ship to such place under the protection of the policy. For policies of insurance ought always to be construed according to the course of trade in the place; and mistakes and doubtful passages ought to be interpreted in favour of the insured (a).

The goods are protected in lighters to any part of the port where such goods are usually landed.

Policies ought to be construed according to the usage of trade.

(a) 1 *Mag.* 48.

But though the general rule is, that the insurance on goods shall continue "*till they are discharged and safely landed,*" yet it has been holden, by a very eminent and learned judge, that if the insured take goods from on board the ship in his own lighter, the insurer is discharged.

Sparrow v. Carruthers, at N. P. 2 Str. 1236.

If the owner of goods insured take them from on board the ship in his own lighter, the insurer is discharged.

Thus:—Goods were insured to *London*, "*and until the same should be safely landed there.*"—On the ship's arrival, the owner of the goods sent *his own lighter*, and received them out of the ship; but before they reached the shore an accident happened, by which they were damaged.—For this loss, an action was brought against the insurer.—On the part of the defendant, it was insisted, that the accident happening after the owner had taken the goods into his own possession, it was a loss after the insurance was ended.—To this it was answered, that if this had been an action against the master or owners of the ship, that objection would have been a good answer to it, for they were certainly discharged: But in this action it would be no answer; for it might as well be said, that during the whole voyage, the goods were in the possession of the insured, who took the ship to freight, and whose servant the master was, to this purpose, as much as the lighterman; that, in the case of ships of great burthen, which are forced to lie off, there may be a carriage of many miles in boats and lighters, and it was in the course of trade for the owner of the goods to send his lighter.—But lord C. J. *Lee* held, that the insurer was discharged.—He said it would have been otherwise if the goods had been sent by the ship's boat, which is considered as part of the ship, and its passage part of the voyage. The jury (of merchants) thought it turned on that distinction, and found a verdict for the defendant accordingly.

Observations on this case.

But it would seem, that if it were the usage of a particular trade, that all the goods in that trade should be landed by the owners of such goods in their own lighters, the risk would continue even in those lighters, otherwise the words of the policy "*until safely landed,*" would, as far as related to that particular trade, be nugatory. And the principles laid down by the same learned judge, in
the

the case of *Tiernay v. Etherington* (a), seem to warrant this distinction.—The two following cases will shew, that the risk continues on goods on board a common public lighter, though hired and employed by the owner of the goods for the purpose of landing them; this being done in the ordinary course of trade.

An insurance was made on the ship *Sophia*, and on goods on board, ‘At and from *Grenada* to *London*;—on the ship till moored 24 hours, and on the goods, till discharged and safely landed.’—In an action on this policy, the declaration stated, that before the goods, which consisted of sugars, were discharged and landed, they, by the perils of the river *Thames*, and the waters thereof, were washed away and lost.—On the trial it appeared, that the owners of the goods, for the purpose of landing them, had employed one of the public lightermen, who work on the river for hire, and whose lighters are numbered and entered at *Waterman’s Hall*, without which no lighter is allowed to work on the river. On board of this lighter were put 57 hogsheds of sugar; and there were two men on board, (the usual complement for a lighter), beside the second mate of the ship. The lighter, as it was proceeding to the shore, struck upon the anchor of a ship, and sunk through unavoidable accident, and without any imputation of negligence in any person on board. The sugars being much damaged, the plaintiff went for the partial loss.—On the part of the defendant, it was contended, that though, by the policy, the risk was to continue till the goods were safely landed, and this was understood to mean, by the ship’s boat’s, yet the custom of trade had, in some instances, substituted lighters. But here the merchants had taken upon themselves to employ the lighter, and this not being in the course of trade, the underwriters were discharged from the subsequent loss; for a merchant may, for his own convenience, depart from the usual course of trade.—Mr. Justice *Buller*, in his address to the jury, said; —“The decision of this cause depends on the usage;

Rucker v. Lond.
Affur. coram
Buller J. at N.P.
June 8, 1784.

Goods put into a public lighter for the purpose of being landed, are protected: But if the merchant send his own lighter, the insurer is discharged.

(a) Sup. 250.

but the fact of usage being once established, the question, whether the underwriter is liable or not, is matter of law. But it belongs to the jury to say, whether that which has been done here, be or be not within the usual course of trade. The distinction is between *public* lighters and those which are the property of the merchant, and work only for him. Public lighters have a *stamp of authority*. They are entered at *Waterman's Hall*. The case of *Sparrow v. Carruthers*, does not affect this case. If a merchant will not send public lighters, it shall be a delivery to him when the goods are put on board his own lighter. But lightermen, appointed by the waterman's company, are *public officers*, and have a public credit."—The jury adopted this opinion, and found for the plaintiff.

Herry and others, v. Roy. Ex Assur. 2 Bos. & Pul. 430. 3 Esp. Rep. 289.

The consignee of goods in the port of London employs a common lighterman to land them. In the passage to the shore the lighter is sunk by accident: This is a loss within the policy.

So, where a ship and goods were insured from *Peterburgh* to *London*, in an action upon the policy, it appeared that the ship and cargo, consisting of hemp, arrived safe in the *Thames*; that the plaintiffs being the consignees of the goods, employed a lighterman belonging to one of the public lighters entered at *Waterman's Hall*, to land the hemp; that the hemp was damaged on board the lighter, but without any negligence imputable to the lighterman; that it is the constant practice for merchants in the *Russia* trade to land their goods by means of lighters, and that there are no lighters now in use among the merchants, but the public lighters.—Upon these facts, it was contended on the part of the defendants, that the rule laid down in the above case of *Sparrow v. Carruthers* (a), must apply to this case, the possession of the goods being altered, by the owner taking them into his own custody; and that it made no difference whether the lighter was public or private, because the person who hired it, made it his own *pro hac vice*, and that the goods while on board it, were completely in his own custody.—But the court (b) determined that the defendants were answerable for the loss which happened in the lighter.—Mr. Justice *Heath* said,—

(a) Sup. 252.—(b) *Heath, Rooke, and Chambre, Justices, Lord Eldon, C. J. being absent.*

“ The question in this case is, whether the goods insured have been *safely landed*, within the meaning of the policy. To every part of the policy we must give effect. It is admitted, that the unloading of *Russian* ships is entirely carried on by public lighters, and that no private lighters are ever employed in that business. Then, what effect is to be given to the words, “ *until the goods are safely landed*,” if they do not extend to the goods when on board the public lighter; for in no other manner can they be safely landed. It is true, that the master and owners of the ship were discharged, when the goods were put into the lighter; but the freight and insurance are not commensurate; the latter is far more extensive than the former. As to the case of *Sparrow v. Carruthers*, I think it ought not to be extended. It was only a *nisi prius* decision, which, though often cited, has never been recognised. I do not mean, however, to quarrel with that decision.—Mr. Justice *Rooke* said,—“ I cannot agree, that this case depends on the question, who employs the lighter. Whether it be employed by the owner of the goods, or the owner of the ship, the danger is the same, and the risk of the insurer ought also to be the same.”—Mr. Justice *Chambre* said,—“ The argument for the defendants rests entirely on the case of *Sparrow v. Carruthers*. I do not wish to shake the authority of that case; nor, indeed, is it necessary to do so: But I cannot help observing, that if the decision had been different, I should have been better satisfied with it. The only ground upon which it can be supported, is, that the owner of the goods completely accepted them, and discharged the owner of the ship from any further concern in them (a). But the case before Mr. Justice *Buller* (b) has

(a) If that be a sufficient ground to support the case of *Sparrow v. Carruthers*, might not the like decision be supported on the same ground in the present case; for, from the time the goods were put into the plaintiff's lighter, the owners of the ship lost all control over them, and were therefore discharged from all further concern in them. But, as Mr. Justice *Heath* very

has more weight with me. In the present case I rely on the words of the policy, and the known and settled usage of the trade."

Matthie and others v. Potts,
3 Bos. & Pul. 23.

Goods put into launches for the purpose of being run on shore, in a contraband trade with the Spanish main, are protected while in the launches.

If, while the goods are in a public lighter, the insured take charge of them himself, he discharges the underwriters.

Strong v. Nataly,
1 New Rep. 16.

The policy affords protection in the port of delivery, only till the goods can be conveniently landed.

So, in a case where a cargo of *British* goods was insured from *Nassau* to *Campeachy*, and it appeared that, upon the ship's arrival off that port, she made signals, as is usual in that contraband trade, for launches to come out, into which the goods were put for the purpose of being run on shore on the *Spanish* main: But, in the attempt, they were seized by *Spanish* government vessels. — One question in this case was, whether the goods were protected by the policy, while on board the launches. The court seemed to be of opinion that they were.

But if the insurer, instead of leaving the goods under the care of the lighterman, take them under his own care and management, and discharge the lighterman from his responsibility, this will determine the risk and discharge the underwriters.

As where goods in the usual way were put on board a lighter in the river *Thames*, and brought to the insured's wharf in the afternoon, but in consequence of the roughness of the weather, they could not be landed that evening; and the lighterman asked the insured whether he should stay and see the goods landed. The insured answered that he need not stay; for that he would look to the landing of them himself. The lighterman accordingly left the lighter alongside the wharf, which in the course of the night was sunk, and the goods lost. — The court determined that the insured having dispensed with the lighterman's keeping charge of the goods during the night, as he was bound to do, had discharged the underwriters from all subsequent responsibility.

Though the risk on goods, according to the usual words of the policy, is to continue "until they are dis-

very justly observes, 'the freight and insurance are not commensurate.' In truth, the insurer, in such case, continues liable after the owners of the ship are discharged. — (b) *Rucker v. Lond. Assur.* Sup. 166.

charged

charged and safely landed at the port of delivery, this is not to be understood as an authority to prolong the risk after the ship's arrival at her port of delivery, for any indefinite length of time, at the pleasure of the insured. The fair construction of this clause is, that the goods shall remain under the protection of the policy for a *reasonable time*, till they can be conveniently landed, and no longer.

As, where an insurance was made from *London* to *Port Endick*, on the coast of *Africa*, on the ship till moored at anchor 24 hours, and on goods "*till discharged and safely landed.*" The ship arrived on the coast on the 6th of *May*, and was captured by the *French* on the 4th of *June*. It appeared that the trade was carried on by barter on board the vessel, and the goods afterwards sent on shore in boats, and gums brought back; that, in this case, the discharge of the cargo was not begun, the gums not having been brought down to the coast, but no delay was used.—In an action on the policy, it was contended on the part of the defendant, that, by the custom of this trade, the risk on the goods, as well as on the ship, ended in 24 hours after her arrival on the coast, and that the risk on the cargo, while on the coast, was protected by the homeward policy, which, in this instance, was at 15 guineas *per cent.*—Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, refused the evidence both of the homeward policy, and of the supposed usage, (which he had on a former occasion admitted against his own opinion, and on which a new trial had been granted), to qualify the clear and unequivocal language of the policy, which covered the risk *till the goods were landed*. He said that, if, in landing, any unnecessary delay had been used, that might amount to something in the nature of a deviation; but that did not appear to be the case in the present instance.

Yet, where a factor, after a ship's arrival at her port of discharge, sells the cargo on board, without unloading, and the buyer of the goods contracts for the freight of them to some other port; but before the ship breaks ground, she meets with an accident and is lost:—Here the insurers are discharged; for the property being

changed,

Parkinson v. Collier, at N. P.
Park 314.

A ship is detained on the coast of *Africa* before she can land her goods in the regular course of trade: The risk continues, if there be no unnecessary delay.

Yet, if the cargo be sold, without unloading, and the vendee contracts for the freight of it to another port, the insurer is discharged.

changed, and freight contracted for *de novo*, it is the same as if the goods had been landed (a).

But the general rule may be controlled by the usage of a particular trade.

But the following determination will shew, that where, by the usage of a particular trade, it is customary to keep the goods on board the ship even beyond the time when they might be conveniently landed, on account of the ship's crew being necessarily employed in other business, the risk will continue till the time when, in the course of that trade, they are usually landed.

*Noble v. Kenne-
way, Doug. 492.*

A ship and goods are insured to the coast of Labrador. The goods are left a long time on board after the ship's arrival; but this being usual in the fishing trade at that place, the risk on the goods continues.

An insurance was made on two ships, and on goods on board, 'From Dartmouth to Waterford, and from thence to the port or ports of discharge, on the coast of Labrador; on the ships, till moored at anchor 24 hours, and on the goods, until the same should be there discharged and safely landed.'—The two ships arrived on the coast of Labrador; the one on the 22d of June, the other on the 14th of July 1778; and from the time of their arrival, the crews were employed in fishing, and had taken out none of their cargoes, except at leisure hours, such things as were immediately wanted. On the 13th of August an American privateer entered the harbour, and took both vessels.—In an action on the policy, to recover the value of the goods, the defence was, that there had been an unnecessary delay in unloading the cargoes, and that the loss was therefore imputable to the negligence of the insured. On the other hand, the plaintiffs relied on the words of the policy, and the usage of the trade, which they proved to have been for three years, to proceed in voyages of this sort as the ships insured had done. It appeared that the plaintiffs had the only warehouses on the coast of Labrador, but that they were not sufficient to hold the goods, if they had been landed; that, in chartering ships for this trade, it was usual to stipulate that they should have 60 days allowed for discharging; and that in fact they were sometimes longer. That in the Newfoundland trade it was usual to keep their goods several months on board, and sometimes even till they have part of their homeward cargo of fish on board; that the first object is to catch fish, and they unload only

(a) General treat. of trade, 78. See *Leigh v. Mather*, inf 266.
when

when they cannot fish; and that the old cargo being chiefly salt and provisions, is gradually taken out as it is consumed.—Upon this evidence the plaintiffs had a verdict.—The defendant moved for a new trial, on the ground, that the policy on the *ships*, having expressed 24 hours after their safe arrival as the duration of the risk on them, no underwriter could suppose that he was to be liable for the *goods* for 50 or 60 days longer; that the fair construction of the policy was, that the goods were to be protected a reasonable time, and until they could be conveniently landed; that evidence of the usage of this particular trade ought not to have been admitted; and that a special clause might have been inserted in the policy for protecting the ship and goods during her stay.—But the court held, that the insurer was liable for this loss.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—"The trade of fishing on the banks of *Newfoundland*, especially for the west of *England*, has been known and practised for many years. Since the treaty of *Paris*, a new trade has been opened to *Labrador*. The insurance here is on the ships, and the goods till landed. The defendant says, the plaintiffs have been guilty of unreasonable delay in landing them. That question was to be tried by the jury, and could only be decided by knowing the usual practice of the trade. Every underwriter is presumed to be acquainted with the practice of the trade he insures, whether recently established or not. If he does not know it, he ought to inform himself. It is no matter if the usage has only been for a year. This trade has existed, and has been conducted in the same manner for three years. It is well known that the fishery is the object of the voyage; and the same sort of fishing is carried on in the same sort of way at *Newfoundland*. The point is not analogous to a common law custom; and the evidence of a usage of a similar trade at *Newfoundland* was admissible."

Every underwriter is presumed to know the practice of the trade he insures in, though recently established.

The usage of another similar trade may be given in evidence, to shew the practice of a newly established trade.

When an insurance is upon goods generally, and the ship touches at a port in the course of the voyage insured, and there lands part of the goods insured, and takes others on board either in exchange for them, or purchased with the proceeds of them, all the *French*

When the risk continues on goods exchanged in the course of the voyage.

writers agree that the goods so newly taken on board are substituted in the policy for those that were landed, become part of the subject matter of the insurance, and the risk continues on them in like manner as on the goods originally put on board (a). But where goods are insured from the loading thereof at the ship's port of departure, the policy, though worded in the most comprehensive terms, will not protect goods shipped at any other place.

Grant v. Paxton,
at N. P. 14th
July 1807.

Goods are insured from Canton to all places in the East Indies, and until their safe arrival at London. The ship in distress puts into Bombay, sends her cargo in other ships to Europe, and, when repaired, takes a new cargo on board and sails for China:—The risk does not continue on the new cargo.

As where goods were insured on board the *Brunswick*, of which the plaintiff was captain, 'from Canton to all or any ports and places in the East Indies, in all places, at all times, in all services, &c. beginning the adventure on the said goods from the loading thereof at Canton, including the risk in craft from the shore to the ship, and to continue till the ship's safe arrival at London.'—The ship having sprung a leak in the voyage was forced to put into Bombay, where the cargo was put on board other ships and sent to England; and the ship being repaired at Bombay, the governor and council permitted the plaintiff to take a new cargo on board and return to China. In her passage thither she was captured.—It was contended on the part of the plaintiff that the policy would apply to any goods on board the *Brunswick* from any one place to any other in the East Indies or China: But Sir James Mansfield C. J. nonsuited the plaintiff, upon the ground that the policy did not apply to the new cargo shipped at Bombay; for the wording of the policy could only relate to goods shipped at China, and the policy contained no authority to change the cargo (b).

2. Upon the Ship.

When the risk on the ship begins and ends.

UPON the ship, the risk in some countries is made to commence from the time she begins to take in her first goods or ballast, and to continue till after she arrives at her place of destination, and is entirely discharged. In others, the risk is made to end twenty-one days after the ship's arrival, or sooner if she be unloaded (c).—In

(a) *Valin* art. 27. h. t. p. 78.; *Pothier* h. t. n. 63.; *Emerig.* t. 2. p. 38.; *vid. inf.* ch. 8. l. 3. n. 3.—(b) *Vid. inf.* 270.—(c) 1 *Mag.* 47.

France, if the time of the risk on the ship be not regulated by the contract, it runs from the time she sets sail, till her arrival at her port of destination, and till she be there anchored and moored at the quay (a).

In *England*, the commencement of the risk on the ship varies in almost every case. In outward voyages, it is generally made to commence from her beginning to load at her port of departure.

Sometimes privateers on a cruise, ships engaged in the coasting trade, or in short voyages, are insured for a limited period of time, which now, by stat. 35 G. III. c. 63. s. 12. (b) shall not exceed twelve calendar months; and, in such cases, the risk commences and ends with the term, wherever the ship may then happen to be.

If a ship be insured *from* the port of *London* to any other port, and before she breaks ground, an accident happen to her, the insurers are not answerable; for the risk does not commence till she sets sail on her departure from the port of *London*: But if the insurance be “*at and from*” the port of *London*, the insurers are liable for any accident that may happen to her, *from the time of subscribing the policy*.

If an insurance be *from* a place, the risk does not commence till her departure from thence.

If an insurance be made on a ship and goods on board, beginning the adventure on the goods, from the loading thereof at *A.*, and on the ships, “*in the same manner.*” If the goods be not loaded at *A.* the policy will never attach on them; and not attaching on the goods, it will not attach on the ship (c).

If the risk on the ship be to commence in the same manner as that on goods, and the policy on the goods never attach, the risk on the ship will never attach.

When a ship, which is expected to arrive at a certain place abroad, is insured “*at and from*” that place, or “*from her arrival*” there, the risk begins from the first moment of *her arrival at the place* specified; and the words “*first arrival*” are implied, and always understood in policies so worded. The risk in such cases continues there as long as the ship is preparing for the

In homeward voyages, where the policy is “*at and from.*”

(a) Ord. of Louis XIV. tit. *Contrats à la grosse*, art. 5. Vid. *Falk* on this art. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 63. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 14.

— (b) Inf. ch. 8. s. 3. — (c) *R. Roher senr. French*, 4 *Engl* 320, inf.

voyage insured (a) : But if all thoughts of the voyage be afterwards laid aside, and the ship be suffered to lie there for a length of time, with the owner's privity, the insurer is not liable ; for this would be to subject him to the whim and caprice of the owner, who might chuse to let the ship lie and rot there (b).

Objections to the time allowed by English policies.

In some foreign countries, the risk on the ship is made to continue, as we have already observed, till she is entirely discharged. In others, it continues for twenty-one days after her arrival, unless she be sooner unloaded.— But in *English* policies it is usually made to continue only ‘until the ship hath moored at anchor 24 hours in good safety,’ — *Magens* objects, and not without reason, that freight is not earned till the cargo is completely discharged, and as it is almost impossible for a ship to unload in so short a time as 24 hours, the consequence is, that the freight remains unprotected, from the expiration of the 24 hours till the ship is discharged. Therefore, says he, in bottomry bonds, and policies of insurance, on ship and freight, there should be a stipulation that the risk shall not end till the expiration of a certain number of days after the ship's arrival (c).

The insurer is liable for no loss after the time.

Where the policy contains the usual words ‘until she hath moored at anchor 24 hours in good safety,’ the following case will shew that the insurer is answerable for no loss after the expiration of that time.

Angerstein v. Bell, at N. P. Park 35.

A ship is moored on the outside of a tier, there being no room for her within ; and after the 24 hours she is driven from her anchors :—The insurer is not liable.

A ship arrived in the *Thames* at the wharf where she was to unload, on the 12th of *January*,—and was laid on the outside of the tier, there being no room for her on the inside : Her sails were unbent, her top-masts struck, three anchors out, and she was lashed to another ship, and so continued till the 19th, when several ships and a quantity of ice drove athwart her stern, forced her adrift, and she was totally lost.—In an action against an insurer on this ship, lord *Kenyon* was of opinion that she

(a) Vid. sup. 155. 165.—(b) Per lord *Hardwicke*, in *Metcux v. Lond. Assur.* 1 Atk. 545. and in *Chitty v. Selwyn*, 2 Atk. 359. Vid. *Bird v. Appleton*, 8 T. R. 562. sup. 74.—(c) Vid. 1 *Mag.* 23. 47. Vid. *Skin.* 243.

was completely moored on the 12th of *January*, and as the accident did not happen till above 24 hours after that time, the insurer was not liable for the loss.

The following case shews that this rule holds, even where the loss arises from a cause which existed antecedent to the time of the ship's being moored.

This holds though the cause existed before the ship's arrival.

Lecky v. Offley, 1 T. R. 252. inf. c. 13. l. 5.

A ship was insured from *Hamburg* to *London*, and in the course of the voyage the master committed barratry by smuggling on his own account on the *English* coast; and for this smuggling, the ship, above three weeks after she had arrived in safety at her moorings in the *Thames*, was seized by the revenue officers.—In this case it was determined that though, by the stat. 24 G. III. c. 47. and the other excise laws, the forfeiture attaches the moment the offence is committed, and the ship may be seized at any time afterwards; and though the barratry, in this case, was committed during the voyage, yet the underwriters were not liable for this loss.—Mr. Justice *Willes*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said,—“ Though the custom-house officers might seize for the forfeiture within three years after the fact, and the Attorney General might file an information at any time while the ship was in being, is the insurer during all this time to continue liable? Supposing the ship had gone several voyages afterwards; and suppose a partial loss paid, and the underwriter's name struck out of the policy, shall an action be afterwards brought upon the policy? His accounts could never be settled, nor could he be finally discharged while the ship was in existence. Such a position would be monstrous, and attended with infinite inconvenience. There must be some certain reasonable limitation in point of time laid down by the court, when the insurer shall be released from his responsibility. If he be liable for a month, he may be liable for a year, and so on. And we all think that the law on insurances would be left unsettled, and in much confusion, if any other time were suggested than that prescribed by the policy, namely, *the continuance of the voyage, and the ship's mooring 24 hours in safety.*”

The master of a ship having been guilty of smuggling during the voyage, the ship is seized after she has been moored 24 hours.—The insurer is not liable, though the forfeiture attached the moment the offence was committed.

Meretony v. Dunlop, E. 23 G. III. in B. R. cited by Mr. Justice *Willles* in *Lockyer v. Offley*, 1 T. R. 260.

A ship insured for a term, gets her death's wound during the time, but survives the term:—The insurer is not liable.

But if the ship from necessity be sent from her moorings before the 24 hours are ended, the risk continues.

Waples v. James, 2 Str. 1248.

A ship, after being moored, but within the 24 hours, is ordered to the proper place to perform quarantine:—The risk continues.

So, where an insurance was made on a ship for *six months*; and three days before the expiration of that time, she received her death's wound; but, by pumping, she was kept afloat till three days after the time; it was determined that the risk was at an end before the loss happened; and that therefore the insurers were not liable. Upon the same principle, if an insurance be made on a man's life *for a year*, and some short time before the expiration of the term, he receive a mortal wound, of which he dies, *after the year*; the insurer is not liable.

But before the risk on the ship can be said to be completely ended, she must not only have been 24 hours moored at anchor in her port of destination, but she must have been during that time *in good safety*, in the fullest sense of those words. If, therefore, the ship be obliged to perform quarantine, this does not end the voyage. The voyage only ends when the ship is arrived at her port of destination, and is there moored 24 hours in good safety (*a*). And the following case will shew, that, if the ship, before the 24 hours are expired, be ordered to the proper place to perform quarantine, the risk continues, though she do not leave her moorings till long after the 24 hours are expired.

A ship was insured, 'At and from *Leghorn* to the port of *London*, and till there moored 24 hours in good safety.'—She arrived on the 8th of *July* at *Fresh Wharf*, and moored, but was the same day served with an order to go back to the *Hope*, to perform a fourteen days quarantine. The men upon this deserted her, and the captain on the 12th applied to be excused going back, which petition was adjourned to the 28th, when he was ordered back. On the 30th, she went back, performed quarantine, and then sent up for orders to air the goods, which he could not do till the 14 days were expired; but before the ship returned, she was burnt on the 23d of *August*.—It was ruled (*b*) that though the ship was so long at her moorings, yet she could not be said to be there in

(*a*) Vid. *Cleirac*, ch. 9, art. 15.—(*b*) At N. P. probably by *Lec*, C. J.

good safety, which must mean the opportunity of unloading and discharging; whereas here she was arrested within the 24 hours, and the hands having deserted, and government having taken time to consider the petition, there was no default in the master or owners.

Upon the same principle, if the ship, on her arrival at her port of destination, be subject to seizure under an embargo and a declaration of reprisals, and she be in fact seized within the 24 hours, though she be permitted afterwards to land her cargo, the insurer is liable.

Thus: A ship was insured 'from *Bilboa* to *Rouen*, and 'till 24 hours moored in safety there.'—The ship arrived, but an embargo had been laid on all *English* vessels in that port. The captain went on shore the day he arrived, and the next day the embargo was laid on his ship. He was afterwards permitted to land his cargo, which he delivered to his consignees, but the ship was detained as prize, and the captain and crew allowed subsistence, as prisoners of war, from the time of their arrival.—In an action on the policy, it was ruled by Lord *Kenyon*, that the ship was as much within the power of the enemy, as if a guard had been put on board the moment she arrived. She could not, therefore, be said to be 24 hours, or a minute, moored in *safety*, as far as relates to the insured; for immediately on entering the port she was, to all intents and purposes, captured by the *French*.

When the voyage insured is described in general terms, as '*from A. to B.*,' without expressing how long after her arrival the insurance is to continue; it has been holden that the risk upon the ship continues till she has been unloaded and discharged from the voyage (a)—And though it seems reasonable that an insurance on the ship, for the voyage from *A. to B.* generally, should continue till the object of the voyage is accomplished, that is, till her cargo is landed; yet it has been determined that an insurance upon a ship to *Jamaica* generally ends as soon as she moors 24 hours in any port in the island, and does not continue till she comes to her last port of delivery.

So, if the ship be seized at her port of delivery as prize, within the 24 hours.

Minnett v. Anderson, at N. P. Peake 211.

A ship arrives at her port of destination, and finds an embargo laid there, upon which she is detained as prize:—The insurers are liable, though she was permitted to land her cargo and deliver it to the consignees.

If the risk be from *A. to B.* generally, it has been holden that it lasts till the ship is unloaded and discharged.

Yet an insurance to *Jamaica* generally ends, as soon as the ship has anchored 24 hours at any port there.

(a) R. Anon. *Skin.* 243.

Thus:

Gooden v. Gooden
105. 1 Bl. 417
and 418.

A ship was insured 'From London to Jamaica' generally; and, by a subsequent policy, she was also insured, 'At and from Jamaica to London.'—The ship, having touched and staid for some days at one port of Jamaica, was lost in coasting the island, but before she had delivered all her outward cargo at the other ports of the island.—The ship was what is called a *general* ship; that is, she was advertised at *Lloyd's* coffee house as bound to the island generally; and, by the course of trade, to touch at the several ports of the island there to deliver some goods and take in others.—In an action on the *homeward* policy, in order to shew where the homeward risk commenced, it was necessary to shew at what time the outward risk determined; and after an examination of merchants as to the custom, it was decided by a special jury that the underwriters on the homeward policy were liable for the loss, being of opinion that the outward risk ended when the ship had moored, twenty-four hours in any port of the island; and did not continue till she came to the first port of delivery.—Upon a motion for a new trial, Lord *Mansfield* said that the inclination of his opinion was the contrary way. But as the cause had been thoroughly tried, and no new light could be thrown on it, he was against granting a new trial. The other judges concurred, and Mr. Justice *Wilkes* said he was of opinion that the verdict was right, the ship having arrived at Jamaica, the first port she came to trade in.

Barroff v. Lead
Affw. at G. H.
after Hil. 1781.

S. P.

Leigh v. Mather,
at N. P. 1 Esp.
Rep. 412.

General insurance on ship and goods to Jamaica. The ship, after discharging part of her cargo at one

In a similar case Lord *Mansfield* said down the same doctrine to the jury, namely, that the outward risk upon the ship ended after her arrival in the first port of the island to which she was destined; but that the outward policy upon goods continued till they were landed.

So, where an insurance was made on the ship *Palifer* and goods on board, 'At and from Georgia to Jamaica, and till moored 24 hours in safety.'—The ship arrived at *Montego Bay*, where she moored and remained nearly a month, and the agent of the insured sold, and delivered, the greatest part of her cargo to merchants there. The captain then chartered the ship to proceed from thence

Ch. VII. § 5.] *Duration of—on the Ship.*

to *St. Anne's*, and there take in a cargo for *London*; and it was verbally agreed that the remainder of the cargo, which was lumber, should be carried as *ballast* to *St. Anne's*. Accordingly the ship, after taking in some fustick, proceeded toward *St. Anne's*, but was lost in her passage thither.—In an action on the policy, it was urged for the plaintiff, that the policy being in general terms, 'to *Jamaica*,' it meant to include all the ports in that island, at which any part of the cargo was to be delivered; and therefore, upon such an insurance, the ship may go from port to port; but at all events, the goods were protected by the policy till they were all discharged and safely landed.—But Lord Kenyon, who tried the cause, held clearly that the risk on the ship ceased on her being moored 24 hours in the first port of the island, for the purpose of unloading.—He said that, when a ship is insured to any particular port of delivery, if by stress of weather she be forced into a different port, and there discharge part of her cargo, she is nevertheless protected by the policy till she arrives at her port of delivery. But it appearing in evidence that *Montego Bay* was the original destination of the cargo, and that its not being wholly delivered there, was only prevented by the new agreement, he held that nothing could be recovered for the loss of goods; for a ship, insured to *Jamaica generally*, cannot be permitted to go from port to port, round the whole island, for the purpose of unloading, especially where, as in this case, the same person is owner of both ships and goods.

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In *France* it was usual to insure to the *French West India* islands generally; and then the risk on goods continued till they were landed at their respective places of destination; and on the ship, till she had discharged her cargo at the last of those places.—But where the ship had discharged all but a small part of her cargo, amounting to about one per cent. on the whole, and had begun to take in her homeward cargo, the risk on the ship was considered as at an end, and the insurer discharged (a).

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(a) *Emerig.* tom. i, p. 72.

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But they hold, that so long as any considerable part of the cargo remained on board, the risk continues, though part of the homeward cargo be put on board.

As where an insurance was made on a ship and cargo from *Bourdeaux* to the *French West India Islands*; with liberty to touch, stay, and trade at such ports or places as the captain should think proper (a).—The ship arrived at *Jaquemel* in *St. Domingo*, and there disposed of part of her cargo, and took on board 26 bales of cotton, and after a stay of five months, sailed for *St. Louis*, to continue the sale of her outward cargo, and to procure the remainder of her homeward cargo. On her passage thither she was chased by three *English* privateers into a bay, where the captain landed as much of the cargo as he could, and then set fire to the ship, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy.—In a suit to recover for this loss, the insurers contended that as the ship, before the loss happened, had begun to take her homeward cargo on board, this put an end to the outward voyage, and discharged them. On the part of the insured it was insisted that the 26 bales of cotton were too inconsiderable to change the character of the voyage from outward to homeward; that there was nothing in the contract to prevent the replacing a part of the cargo, by goods of the place where the ship touches, and that the risk on the ship continues till the outward cargo is all, or nearly all, landed.—The insurers were condemned to pay the loss. This sentence upon appeal was reversed; but, upon appeal to the parliament of *Bourdeaux*, the original sentence was affirmed, and the insured recovered (b).

It is observed by *Emerigon* on this case, that as the cargo was not all disposed of at *Jaquemel*, the ship's departure for *St. Louis* ought to be looked upon as a continuance of the voyage, and upon that principle the final decision was

(a) This, I conceive, is the meaning of the words, '*Tou-
chant et faisant échelle aux endroits que bon semblera au capitaine.*'
See *Emerigon's* explanation of this clause in *French policies*,
vol. 2. p. 40.—(b) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 73.

right: But that it would have been otherwise, if, by the sale of all, or nearly all the cargo at *Jaquemel*, the outward voyage had been ended.

In general, the risk on the rigging, tackle, furniture, and provisions of the ship insured, continues no longer than they are attached to, or, remain on board the ship. But where it is necessary to put these articles on shore during a repair, and this is the usual practice in such cases, the risk continues on them while on shore, and if they are lost or damaged by any of the perils mentioned in the policy, the insured is liable.

Thus: An insurance was made on the ship *Onslow*, 'At and from *London* to any ports or places beyond the 'Cape of Good Hope, and back to *London*, free from 'average under 10 per cent., upon the body, tackle, &c. 'of the ship: Beginning the adventure from the date of 'the policy, and to continue till the ship shall have arrived 'as above, and there anchored 24 hours in good safety.' The ship arrived in the river *Canton*, in *China*, where she was to stay to clean and refit, and for other purposes. Upon her arrival there, all her rigging and furniture were, by the Captain's orders, taken out of her, and put into a storehouse called a *Bank Saul*, built for that purpose on a sand bank, in the river, near *Bank Saul Island*, in order to be there repaired, and preserved till the ship should be heeled, cleaned, and refitted. Soon after, a fire broke out in a *Bank Saul* belonging to a *Swedish* ship, which communicated to that belonging to the *Onslow*, and consumed it, together with her rigging and furniture. It appeared to be the universal usage for many years, for *European* ships, when they arrive near this *Bank Saul Island* to unrig and deposit their rigging and furniture in a *Bank Saul* in the manner above described. And this is for the benefit of all persons concerned in the safety of the ship. The ship having been again rigged, and put into the best condition the place would permit, arrived in the *Thames*.—Upon this case it was insisted on the part of the defendant, that though the insurer was liable for all losses, during the course of the voyage, yet that this liability was confined to losses at sea only; whereas this was a loss on shore. But the court determined, after great con-

The risk on the furniture of the ship may continue even when put on shore.

Pelly v. Roy.
Ex. Ajjur.
1 *Bur.* 341.

The rigging and tackle of a ship are put on shore during a repair in the usual course of the voyage, and are burnt by accident:—This is a loss within the policy.

consideration

If a loss be within the general words of the policy, the insurer must shew that it arose from a peril not insured against.

Describing the voyage in the policy is an express reference to all the circumstances attending it.

Such a loss is to be considered in the same light as if it had happened on board the ship.

Every underwriter is bound by the usage of the trade on which he becomes an insurer.

consideration, that the loss on the *Bank Saul* was a loss within the words, intent, and meaning of the policy.— Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said,—“ The tackle, apparel, and furniture, of the ship, were insured expressly from fire during the voyage, and until her return to *London*. These being destroyed by fire, during the voyage, and before her return, is a loss within the general words of the policy; and it was therefore incumbent on the defendants to shew, from the manner in which it happened, that it arose from a peril against which they did not insure. But the insurer, in estimating the premium, must have considered the usual course of the voyage; and describing the voyage in the policy is an express reference to the usual manner of making it, as much as if every circumstance were mentioned. The only objection was, that the loss happened on *land*, and not in the ship, or on the water. To this the obvious answer is, that neither the words, nor the intent, of the policy make such a distinction.”

So, in a similar case, where the ship's provisions were landed and put into a *Bank Saul*, and there destroyed by an accidental fire, the question was, whether those provisions were covered by the policy; but it was admitted that, if they were, it was to be considered in the same light as if the accident had happened on board the ship (a).

Every underwriter may fairly be presumed to be fully conversant in the usual course of the trade on which he becomes an insurer; and he will be bound by the usage of such trade, as much as if it were particularly inserted in the policy. This rule has been already exemplified in the case of *Noble v. Kennard* (b), and it is particularly to be attended to by underwriters upon *East India* voyages, the policies on which are so unlimited, as to time and place, that they include the country voyage there, and all risks that may be run in consequence of any new agreement made in *India* to prolong the time mentioned in the charter-party; nor is it necessary to inform the underwriters of such new agreement; as that, and all other

(a) *R. Brough v. Whitmore*, 4 T. R. 206.—(b) *Sup.* 258.
necessary

necessary information on the subject, may readily be had at the *India House* (a).

As where an insurance was made on a ship, 'At and from *Bengal*, to any ports or places in the *East Indies*, *China*, *Persia*, or elsewhere beyond the *Cape of Good Hope*, forwards and backwards, and during her stay at each place, until her arrival at *London*.'—In an action on this policy, it appeared that the charter-party was in the usual printed form, containing a clause empowering the company's servants in *India* to detain the ship for any time they pleased, not exceeding a year from the time to which she was chartered; that the ship sailed on the 25th of *March* 1762, arrived at *Bombay* the 19th of *September*; left *Bombay* the 4th of *November*; arrived at *Calcutta* the 5th of *March* 1763; that on the 28th the president and council entered into a new agreement with the captain, reciting that the charter-party would expire on the 1st of *February* 1764, but that it was expedient to detain the ship in *India*, and the captain agreed to let the ship for a year from that day; that in *July* 1763, the ship arrived a second time at *Bombay*, sailed for *Bengal* in *December*, arrived there early in 1764, sailed again for *Bombay* the 19th of *March*, and on the 21st was lost; that on the 2d of *April* 1764, the owner received a letter from the captain, dated the 14th of *April* 1763, with a copy of the new agreement, which was publicly read in a coffee-house; that the next day some insurances were made by the owner, and on the 17th of *July*, other insurances were made,—all after this letter was publicly read; that it was very common in this trade, to detain ships for a year by a new agreement, which was very beneficial to the owners, to which usage the words of the policy are adapted, being without limitation of time or place, and without any reference to the first voyage; that all this might have been learned at the *India House*, but at the time of the underwriting, no mention was made, or question asked, when the ship sailed, or when she arrived, or whether she was continued for a year according to the proviso in the charter-party; and none of the underwriters

Salvador v. Hopkins, 3 Bur.
1707.

An insurance upon an *India* voyage, includes the risk of the country voyage by the usage of the trade.

(a) But see *Grant v. Paxton*, sup. 260.

desired to be off, after they knew of the new agreement to prolong the ship's stay.—The defence was, that the policy was void, because at the time it was underwritten, the underwriters were not told of the new agreement to detain the ship beyond the time provided by the charter-party.—But the court determined that, under all the circumstances, the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—The reasons which governed the court in this decision were;—That the underwriters are presumed to know the course of the *East-India* trade, the terms of the charter-party, and the destination of the *India* ships, (which are under the direction of the company, and not of their owners); that the charter-party is a printed form of very long standing; that, besides the liberty thereby given, to prolong the ship's stay for a year, it is very common, by a new agreement, to detain her a year longer; for no ship comes home in ballast, and the longer a ship is kept, the more beneficial to the owners; that the words of the policy are adapted to this usage, being without limitation of time or place, and without any reference to the first voyage particularly mentioned in the charter-party; that the terms of the policy precisely describe the risk in its utmost latitude, and necessarily extend to every prolongation of stay, and every country voyage; that the usage of the *India* trade, and the course of the voyages in it, were notorious to insurers, who must be supposed sufficiently conversant of them, and the obligation of the policy is taken from the usage, and the words of the charter-party, which refer to that usage, in the same manner as if it were expressly inserted in the policy; whereas if every person insured should be obliged to state to the insurer all the grounds of his expectations, as to the ship's continuance in *India*, or her returning to *England*, it might produce great litigation and confusion in cases arising upon these policies; besides, it would be contradictory to the policy, to say that the underwriter did not insure for a country voyage.

Gregory v. Christie, B. R. Tr.
20 C. 111. MS.
sup. 94.

If in a policy on
an *India* ship,
there be liberty

A similar question arose upon a policy on goods, specie, and effects, on board an *East Indianman*, on her voyage
'From *London* to *Madras* and *China*; with liberty to
'touch, stay, and trade at any ports or places whatsoever.'

—When

—When the ship arrived at *Madras*, she was too late to go to *China* that year; upon which she was employed by the council there to go from *Madras* to *Bengal*, to fetch rice; which voyage she performed once, and proceeded on the same voyage a second time, in which she was lost.—It was objected that these intermediate voyages were not insured under the policy; for the words, “to touch, stay, and trade at any ports or places whatsoever,” only meant to give a licence to stay at such places as it should be necessary to stop at in the course of the voyage.—The court, however, determined, that these intermediate voyages constituted a risk within the policy; and that the insured were therefore entitled to recover.—Lord Mansfield said,—“To understand this policy you must refer to the course of the trade to which it relates. By the usual course of the trade, if an *India* ship come to *Madras* too late in the season to proceed to *China*, the council employs her in an intermediate voyage. It is for the benefit of all concerned that she should be so employed; the underwriters are perfectly well acquainted with this usage, and are bound to take notice of it. Before the year 1780, it was usual to insure both the outward and homeward voyages in one policy, and then the words “backwards and forwards” were inserted. Since then, they have divided it, and insure each voyage in a distinct policy. The policy in question differs from others, because it contains not only the usual permission to touch and stay at any ports or places, but also to trade there; which are words so large that they seem sufficient to include the intermediate voyage. It would narrow the construction very much indeed, to say that the policy relates to those places only, at which they shall stop in the voyage. The words employed certainly take in the intermediate voyage; and the usage of trade confirms this construction.”

‘to touch, stay, and trade at any ports or places’—This covers the risk even of a second country voyage.

Even where the liberty is only ‘to touch and stay,’ intermediate voyages are sometimes, by the usage of the trade, covered by the insurance.

As where a ship was insured, ‘At and from *London* to *Madras* and *Bengal*, beginning the risk upon the said ship,

Ferguson v. Hunter, B. R. Hil. 25 G. III. MS S. C. PAR. 50.

In a like policy, the liberty was only to touch and stay at any port, &c. in the voyage:—By the usage of the trade, this covered the risk on the intermediate voyages.

‘at London, and so to continue till the arrival of the said ship at Madras and Bengal, with liberty to touch and stay at any port or place in the voyage.’—The ship arrived at Madras, where, by an order of council, she was unloaded, and sent for rice to Visagapatnam, and her voyage to Bengal was postponed. She was afterwards sent to Bengal in ballast, and was taken in her passage.—In an action on the policy, Lord Mansfield, at the trial, thought that the words of the policy would not admit of such a latitude of construction, as to take in the intermediate voyage, the words being much narrower than those in the last case; and the plaintiff was nonsuited. But this nonsuit was afterwards set aside, the court being clearly of opinion that the risk continued during the intermediate voyages.—Lord Mansfield said,—“This being a policy on the ship on an India voyage, and the usage, as to the intermediate voyages, being notorious to all parties, the contract must be considered as referring to it. This usage is, that, when the ships arrive at Madras, the council may send them elsewhere.”

But the general words will not extend the risk beyond its description.

Yet the general words usually inserted in policies on East India voyages, such as, ‘in all ports and places, at all times, backwards and forwards, in all services,’ &c. do not extend the risk beyond what the particular description of the risk in each policy fairly warrants.

Grant v. Paxton, at G. H. 14th July, 1807.

Goods are insured from Canton to all places in the East Indies, and till the ship's arrival at London. The ship springs a leak and is obliged to put into Bombay, from whence the goods are sent in other ships to London. A new cargo is shipped for China, and in this voyage the ship is taken: The underwriters are not liable.

As where goods were insured on board the *Brunswick*, of which the plaintiff was captain, ‘from China to all or any ports or places in the East Indies, in all places, at all times, and in all services; beginning the adventure on the said goods from the loading thereof on board the said ship at China, including the risk in craft, and to continue until the ship and goods should be safely arrived at London.’—The ship having sprung a leak, was obliged to put into Bombay; from whence the plaintiff's own adventure and the goods of the company were sent to Europe in other ships, and the *Brunswick* being repaired, the plaintiff entered into a new agreement with the governor and council to suspend the charter-party till the ship should get back to China, which was to be revived on her arrival there, and a cargo brought from thence on the company's account. The plaintiff having

having taken a small investment on board on his own account, sailed for *Canton*, and was captured on his voyage thither.—Sir *James Mansfield* C. J. nonsuited the plaintiff upon the ground that the policy could only apply to the goods shipped at *China* for *London*, and not to those shipped at *Bombay* for *China*; and that there were no words in the policy to shew that a change of cargo was in contemplation.

But though, by the well known usage of any particular trade, a voyage is sometimes covered by the policy, which is not within the express words of it; yet, the general rule is, that a liberty ‘to touch at any ports or places,’ means only places in the usual course of the voyage; and this general rule must be considered as applicable to voyages undertaken by the ships of foreign nations, unless the usage of the particular trade in which they are engaged be made known to *British* underwriters, who cannot be presumed to be conversant of such usage.—This was so determined in the case of *Lavabre v. Wilson*, which we have already had occasion to cite at large (a).

A liberty to touch and stay at any ports or places, means only places in the usual course of the voyage.

Where a ship has liberty to touch at any place in the course of the voyage, she must confine herself strictly to the object for which this liberty is granted. Any attempt, for instance, to trade during her stay there, as by shipping or landing goods, will amount to a species of deviation, and put an end to the policy; unless the ship have liberty to trade, as well as to touch and stay (b). And the rule in this respect is so strict that a liberty to touch and discharge goods at a place, will not warrant the captain in taking in a new cargo there, even while the ship is waiting for convoy, or detained by contrary winds; for this would be a new adventure not within the policy (c).

A liberty to touch at a place must be strictly adhered to. If goods be shipped or landed, unless provided for in the policy, it will amount to a deviation.

If the voyage described in the policy have really been commenced, though at a time, and under circumstances,

The risk may be properly commenced, though under circumstances unforeseen at the time of the contract.

(a) Sup. 192.—(b) Per lord *Kenyon*, in *Stitt v. Wardell*, 1 Esp. Rep. 610. inf. ch. 12. f 1.—(c) Per lord *Ellenborough*, in *Sheriff v. Potts*, 5 Esp. Rep. 96.

very different from those which were in the contemplation of the parties at the time when the policy was effected; yet, if there be no fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment on the part of the insured, this shall be a good commencement of the risk.

Driscoll v Pass-
more, 1 Bos. &
Pul. 200.

A ship insured from *A.* to *B.* (being represented as a specific part of a voyage from *B.* to *C.*) from thence to *A.* and back to *B.*, having sailed to *C.* is obliged to return to *B.* from whence she sails to *A.* and is captured on her voyage back to *B.*—The insurer is liable, though the original voyage, of which the voyage insured was a part, was not performed; and the sailing from *A.* for *B.* was a good commencement of the voyage insured.

See also *Driscoll v. Bewell*, sup. p. 91.

Thus:—The ship *Timandra* having sailed from *Lisbon* on a voyage to *Madeira*, from thence to *Saffi* on the coast of *Africa*, and back from thence to *Lisbon*, the plaintiff having received intelligence of the ship's arrival at *Madeira*, and that she was about to proceed on her voyage to *Lisbon*, caused an insurance to be effected on freight from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*.—It appeared that when the ship arrived at *Madeira*, all the crew except two, being alarmed by reports of some *Moorish* cruisers being off *Saffi*, and their having captured and ill-treated a *Dane* and an *American*, quitted the ship, and refused to return to her, unless the captain would promise to sail immediately back for *Lisbon*. Under these circumstances the captain carried the ship back to *Lisbon*; but on his arrival there, the charterers insisted on his proceeding directly from thence to *Saffi*, which he accordingly did, and was captured on his return from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*.—It was contended on the part of the defendant, 1st, That where a voyage is insured from *A.* to *B.*, it must appear either that the ship is at *A.* at the time of the insurance, or how and when she is to arrive there; otherwise it would be an indefinite insurance on the first voyage which the ship should make from *A.* to *B.* with the same master, and the other requisites of the policy; that if it be stated whether the ship be at *A.* or when she will be there, this becomes an ingredient in the risk insured; and consequently, as the ship, instead of proceeding to *Saffi*, had returned to *Lisbon*, the voyage insured was abandoned; or rather, as the previous part was abandoned, the voyage insured never commenced. 2dly, That this was not an insurance on any voyage which the ship might make from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*; but on a voyage from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*, being part of a voyage, already commenced, from *Lisbon* to *Madeira*, from thence to *Saffi* and from *Saffi* back to *Lisbon*; and that the representation of this to the under-

writers

writers was the same in this case as a warranty, in as much as there was a substantial deviation from it; that the voyage undertaken at the instance of the charterer was a new voyage; and that no recommencement of what had once been abandoned, could make the underwriter liable.—The court determined, however, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord C. J. *Eyre* said,—“It is admitted, that this is a new case, and there are no authorities on the subject. It has been argued on the part of the defendant, that the voyage insured was the third branch of a voyage specifically described in the policy; but I take the voyage insured to have been a voyage from *Saffi* to *Lisbon* only. Now, that the voyage described did literally commence, there can be no doubt, and I know of no way in which that voyage could be restricted in point of commencement or connexion with any other voyage, but by representation or warranty. If a man be asked to underwrite a voyage from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*, he naturally enquires what this voyage is, and at what time it will commence, that he may judge of the risk. He will expect a representation, and that representation ought to be true. Here the representation was, that the ship was bound from *Lisbon* to *Madeira*, from thence to *Saffi*, and from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*. That representation was true at the time it was made, and the underwriter was to form his own calculation of the time when the ship would arrive at *Saffi*. If the insurance be made on a representation which is true at the time, it would be difficult to state a case where subsequent events, not happening through misconduct, and not totally disappointing the voyage, would discharge the underwriter. In this case the underwriter formed his judgment of the risk, knowing that all was executory, and that an alteration might arise that might increase the risk. He underwrote upon the representation made to him. A circumstance occurred under which the captain was at a loss how to act. He resolved to go back to *Lisbon*, and there the charterer required him to fulfil his engagement. He sailed accordingly, and arrived at *Saffi*; and in the course of his voyage home was captured. Then, why are not the underwriters lia-

ble? They were literally bound to insure a voyage from *Saffi* to *Lisbon*; tied up, indeed, as far as a representation of the projected voyage, executory in its nature, and true at the time, could tie it up.—The voyage from *Saffi* to *Lisbon* might have been performed with as much ease after the circuitous voyage had taken place, unless a *Spanish* war had broken out, as in the direct course originally performed, from which the ship was diverted, by circumstances for which no one was to blame.”

3. Upon Freight.

Upon freight, the risk does not commence till the goods are on board.

In an insurance on *freight*, the risk generally begins from the time the goods are put on board. If, before any goods are put on board, an accident happen to the ship which prevents her sailing, the insured cannot recover for the loss of freight which the ship *might* have earned if the accident had not happened.

Tonge v. Watts,
at N. P. 2 Str.
1251.

Thus;—An insurance was made ‘on ship and freight, at and from *Jamaica* to *Bristol*.’—A cargo was ready to be put on board; but while the ship was careening for the voyage, a sudden tempest arose, and she was lost.—In an action on the policy, the defendant paid the loss *upon the ship* into court. But the plaintiff insisted on the loss of the *freight* | the ship *would have earned*, if the accident had not happened.—But lord C. J. *Lee* ruled, that as the goods were not actually on board, so as to make the plaintiffs right of freight *commence*, he could not be allowed it.

If part be shipped, the insured upon a valued policy may recover.

Montgomery v. Eglington,
3 T. R. 362.

But if part of the cargo had been put on board, and the rest be ready to be shipped, the insured may recover for the whole freight upon a valued policy.

As where an insurance was made on freight, valued at 1500., and the ship was driven from her moorings and lost, when goods only to the amount of 500l. freight were on board, though goods to the amount of the rest of the freight were, at the time, lying on the quay, ready to be shipped.—In an action on this policy, lord *Kenyon* left it to the jury to consider, whether this was a mere colourable insurance, and a gaming policy, or a *bona*

bona fide transaction: If the latter, he was of opinion, that the insured was entitled to recover for the whole value in the policy. The jury found the whole sum.—The defendant's counsel obtained a rule for a new trial, which he afterwards abandoned, the court being strongly of opinion against him.

But though the commencement of the risk on freight is, in general, from the taking of the goods on board; yet the following case will shew, that where the ship is to sail to a distant place to take in her cargo, the risk commences on the freight from the time of her sailing for that place.

A ship was chartered, 'To depart from the *Thames* 'and proceed to *Teneriffe*, and there to receive on board 'from the freighters, 500 pipes of wine, to be delivered 'in the *West Indies*.'—A valued policy was effected on half the freight, 'At and from *London* to *Teneriffe*, and 'from thence to any of the *West India* islands, *Jamaica* 'excepted; and at and from thence to the *Bay of Honduras*.'—The ship was taken on her voyage to *Teneriffe*.—It was determined, that, as the charter-party was an entire contract, and as the ship's departure from the *Thames* was an inception of that contract, an inchoate right to freight commenced upon her departure, which was an insurable interest. And as the loss of the ship necessarily induced the loss of the freight, the insured had a right to recover for that loss upon this policy, which was an insurance on the freight. That this case was distinguishable from that of *Tonge v. Watts* (a), where the inception of the risk would have been the taking of the goods on board; and that it was as great an interest as the profits expected to arise from a cargo of molasses, which, in the case of *Grant v. Parkinson* (b), was held to be an insurable interest.

So where a ship was chartered from *London* to *Dominica* and back to *London*, at a certain stipulated freight for the *outward* cargo; and, after the delivery thereof at *Dominica*, the charterers were to provide her a full

If the ship be lost on her way to her port of loading the insurer is liable for the whole freight.

Thompson v. Taylor, 6 T. R. 478.

A ship sails from *London* to *Teneriffe*, to take in a cargo for the *West Indies*, and is lost in that voyage:—The insurers on freight are liable.

Harcastle and others v. Smart, 7 East 400.

A ship is chartered from A to B. and back to A. at a certain freight for the outward voyage, and the current freight home.

(a) 2 Str. 1251. sup. 278. (b) Sup. 97.

Before she unloads her whole outward cargo, and before any of her homeward cargo is shipped, she is lost:—This is a loss on a policy on the homeward freight.

cargo, at the current freight, for *London*.—An insurance was effected on the freight of this ship, 'at and from *Dominica to London*.—The ship arrived at *Dominica*, and unloaded a great part of her outward cargo; but, before she had taken in any part of her homeward cargo, she was captured.—It was objected on the part of the underwriters, that, as no part of the homeward cargo was put on board before the capture, the risk had not commenced.—But lord *Ellenborough*, who tried the cause, over-ruled this objection, being of opinion that the voyage in which the freight was to have been earned having commenced upon the ship's departure from *London*, according to the terms of the charter-party, which made it one entire contract, this case was governed by the foregoing case of *Thompson v. Taylor*; whereupon the plaintiff obtained a verdict.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the court concurred in the opinion given by lord *Ellenborough*.

Observations on the above case.

It may not be improper here to observe that had the plaintiff's case rested solely on the policy, without any aid from the charter-party, it could not have been distinguished from that of *Tonge v. Watts (a)*; for, as the voyage insured was to commence at *Dominica*, and as no part of the homeward cargo was put on board before the capture, there could have been no inception of the risk. Now, as to the charter-party, that could only be considered as *res inter alios acta*, of which the underwriters do not appear to have had any notice at the time the policy was effected. But even supposing they had had full notice of its contents, may it not, with all deference, be doubted whether, as between the insured and the underwriters, the voyage from *Dominica to London* ought not to have been deemed a distinct voyage, and wholly unconnected with the outward voyage (b).

If an insurance on freight be from several places of departure, the risk will not commence till the ship sails for her port of destination.

If there be several ports of departure mentioned in the policy, and the insurance be at and from any one of them to the port of destination, the risk on freight will

(a) Sup. 278.—(b) Vid. *Sellar v. M'Vicar*, 1 New Rep. 29, inf. ca. 8. 1. 2.

not commence upon the ship's departure from any one of these to another of them, before her final departure to her port of destination.—As if freight be insured from *A. B.* and *C.* to *D.*, and the ship be engaged to carry a cargo from *A.* to *B.*, and another from *B.* to *D.*; a departure on the voyage from *A.* to *B.* will not be a commencement of the risk described in the policy; for the voyage insured must be considered as a voyage from *any one* of the places of departure, but not from one to another of them (*a*).

Sect. VI.

Whether the Risk may be changed after the Policy is subscribed.

IF, after the insurance is effected, any thing be done by the insured to alter the nature of the risk, this must be done with the consent of the insurers, otherwise it will avoid the contract: As if, after a policy is effected on a merchant ship, letters of marque be put on board, and from a mere private trader, she be changed into a ship of war, with power not only to defend herself, but also to cruise and take prizes; this is such an alteration in the condition of the ship, that the risk must be materially changed from that which the underwriter took upon himself, and consequently the contract is thereby determined.

Changing the nature of the risk after the policy is effected, determines the contract.

As, where a ship and cargo were insured on a voyage from *Liverpool* to *Oporto*:—The ship sailed, but was driven back by contrary winds: She was then detained some time by an embargo, and, before this was taken off, a war with *France* having broke out, the insured were desirous of putting guns on board, and taking out letters of marque for her: But fearing that this might vacate the policy, they asked permission of the un-

Denison v. Maddison, 5 T. R. 580.

A ship, insured as a private trader, afterwards takes letters of marque, without the consent of the underwriters:—This discharges the underwriters, though no use be made of them.

(a) Vid. *Sellar v. M'Vicar*, 1 New Rep. 23. inf. ch. 8. § 3. underwriters.

derwriters, who agreed to their putting guns on board; but peremptorily refused to permit her to take letters of marque. Notwithstanding this refusal, she was furnished with letters of marque, and after waiting some time for them, sailed on her voyage, and was taken by a *French* privateer.—In an action on the policy, it was insisted on the part of the underwriters, that the ship, having sailed with letters of marque, against their consent, the risk was altered, and the policy thereby vacated.—The insured, on the other hand, said that the letters of marque were not intended to be used in the *voyage insured*, but only in the *voyage home*; and that, in fact, the ship had not deviated in any respect.—The jury, being satisfied of this, found a verdict for the plaintiff.—But the court set this verdict aside, and determined that a ship, insured as a private trader, had no right to carry letters of marque, without the consent of the underwriters; for they afford a strong temptation to the captain to deviate in quest of prize, and essentially alter the condition of the ship from that of a mere private trader, which materially varies the nature of the risk, and consequently discharges the underwriters.

Observations on
this case.

The only ground upon which this decision can be at all sustained, is, that the letters of marque being on board afforded a temptation to the captain to deviate from the voyage insured in quest of prize. It is now a settled point, that an *intention* to deviate, not carried into effect, does not determine the policy. Still less I should conceive, ought a *temptation* to deviate, which may or may not produce even an *intention* to deviate, to affect the contract. Nor have the underwriters reason to object to the captain's being tempted to deviate, since the effect of his yielding to such a temptation would only be to discharge them from all subsequent responsibility. It was found by the jury, in this case, that the letters of marque were taken on board, not for the purpose of being used in the outward voyage, but only in the homeward, which was not the voyage insured; and that, in fact, the ship did not deviate.—In the following case, the same court determined, that the having letters of
marque

marque on board, but without the proper certificate of clearance, without which the captain was unable to make any *legal* use of them, did not vacate the policy. This decision, it may be presumed, proceeded on the idea that the having these defective letters of marque on board, afforded no temptation to the captain to deviate in quest of prize; and yet it will be seen, that the plaintiff recovered in that case, for a loss by barratry, in consequence of the captain's having cruised in quest of prize, under colour of the defective letters of marque. The distinction seems to be, between the letters of marque which afford a legal, and those which afford an illegal, temptation to cruise. If we were permitted, however, to judge by the event, we might conclude that those of the latter description afforded the strongest temptation.

That was the case of an insurance on goods, 'From the *Bahama Islands* to *Liverpool*,' on board a ship which had been chartered for a trading voyage from *Liverpool* to the *Bahamas*, and back.—The ship, about the middle of *May* 1793, having completed her lading, and having taken in guns and ammunition, for the purpose of defence, was ready to sail, but wanted seamen. The insured could procure none to enter, on account of a notion prevailing among them, that the enemy had threatened to treat as pirates the crews of every vessel which made any resistance, unless she had letters of marque, and they knew that this ship had guns on board for the purpose of defence, but no letters of marque. The time pressing much for the departure of the vessel, the insured, in order to quiet the apprehensions of the seamen, and to induce them to enter, procured letters of marque, but without any intention to make use of them for the purpose of cruising or making reprisals. No certificate of clearance was taken out, in pursuance of the Stat. 33 G. III. c. 66. s. 15. without which the letters of marque are declared void; and the captain subjected to a penalty for departing without it; and it was a part of the written instructions to the captain, before he sailed, to proceed to *Liverpool* with all expedition, agreeably to the charter-party, and no mention was made of the letters

Moss v. Byrom,
6 T. R. 379.

Letters of marque were taken out, but without the proper certificate, and only to entice seamen to enter, without any intention of cruising:—This did not vary the risk, so as to avoid the policy, even though the captain, against his instructions, cruised and took prizes.

of marque. A few days after the vessel sailed, the captain intimated an intention to cruise for prizes, to which some of the crew objected, as not being within the scope of their engagement; the majority, however, agreed to it, and they soon fell in with an *American*, whom they plundered, and afterwards released. They then cruised for some days longer, out of the course of the voyage, and captured a vessel of the enemy, which the captain sent into *Bermudas*, and followed thither himself, where he libelled his prize in the court of admiralty, in the name of himself and his owner; and shortly after, during his stay there, his ship was driven ashore in a storm, and the cargo lost. He directed that no mention should be made in the log-book of his cruising for prize.—In an action on the policy, the jury found for the insured, as for a loss by the *barratry of the master*.—The court was moved to set this verdict aside; 1st, because this was not barratry, in as much as the act of the captain was done with a view to benefit, not to prejudice his owner; 2dly, because the taking of letters of marque, without the knowledge or consent of the underwriters, varied the risk, and avoided the policy; and for this, the above case of *Denison v. Modigliani* was relied on as a clear authority in point. And it was argued, that though the insured instructed the captain not to use the letters of marque; yet it was plain that they did vary the risk, because in fact they tempted him to do what he did. That it was true the same objection had been overruled in *Denison v. Modigliani*; but the present was a stronger case, because the captain did give way to temptation, and made use of the power which the insured put into his hands; whereas, in that case, the captain did not act under the letters of marque, but the bare possession of them was held sufficient to vacate the policy. But, at any rate, the policy was avoided before any barratrous act committed, by the single act of the captain's going out of his way to stop the *American* ship.—But the court determined that the insured were entitled to recover on the ground of barratry. They held that the stopping and plundering the *American*

American ship was of itself an act of barratry in the master, independently of his taking the prize, being contrary to his duty to his owners, and to their prejudice, because they had stipulated by the charter-party, that the ship should sail directly to *Liverpool*, and were therefore liable for any damage that might happen in consequence of that deviation; and, that, though the captain might conceive that what he did was for the benefit of the owners, yet if he acted contrary to his duty to them, it was barratry,—Lord *Kenyon* said, that the principles on which the case of *Denison v. Modigliani* was decided, were new and went to the extreme verge; yet, that the present case was distinguishable from that, where there were *legal* letters of marque to enable the captain to take prizes; but here the letters of marque were not obtained for the purpose of enabling the ship to cruise, but to procure seamen; and when they were procured, they could have no legal effect, and then it was the same as if no letters of marque had been on board.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Policy.

HAVING, in the foregoing chapters, shewn who may be parties to this contract, what may be the subject matter of it, in what ship, for what voyage, upon what interest, and against what risks, it may be made, we now proceed to shew how, and in what form, the contract itself shall be made.

This contract is usually compounded of the common policy adapted to each particular case, with certain stipulations or warranties, which are occasionally inserted in it pursuant to the agreement of the parties, and of extrinsic representations.

For the sake of perspicuity, we will examine each of these in a separate chapter; beginning with the policy. —Under this head, we will consider,

- I. *The Nature and Properties of the Policy ;*
- II. *How, and by whom, it may be effected ;*
- III. *The Form and Requisites of it ;*
- IV. *In what Cases it may be altered or corrected.*

SECT. I.

Of the Nature and different Sorts of Policies.

The policy is a written instrument, by which the contract of insurance is effected and reduced into form (a).

(a) Previously to the effecting of the policy, a slip of paper containing a short memorandum of the proposed insurance, is sometimes offered to the underwriters, and subscriptions taken upon it until a competent number is obtained. It would seem that a representation made at the time of subscribing this slip, but not repeated when the policy itself is subscribed, will not affect the contract. *Vid. Dawson v. Atty, 7 East 367.*

—The term policy of insurance, or *assurance*, as it is sometimes called, is derived from the *Italian*, *polizza di assicurazione*, or *di sicurezza*, or *di securta*, and in that language signifies a *note* or *bill of security*, or indemnity.

As the premium, which is the consideration of the promise made by the insurer, is paid, or supposed to be paid, and the receipt of it acknowledged, at the time the policy is subscribed, the promise of the underwriters is always considered as being made upon a consideration *executed*, and therefore the policy contains only the promise of the underwriters, without any thing in nature of a counter-promise on the part of the insured.

Signed only by the insurers.

Policies, with reference to the *reality of the interest* of the insured, are distinguished into *interest* and *wager* policies; with reference to the *amount* of the interest, into *open* and *valued*.

Different forms of policies.

An *interest policy* is where the insured has a real, substantial, assignable, interest in the thing insured; in which case only it is a contract of indemnity.

A *wager policy* is a pretended insurance, founded on an ideal risk, where the insured has no interest in the thing insured, and can therefore sustain no loss by the happening of any of the misfortunes insured against. Insurances of this sort are usually expressed by the words, "*interest or no interest*," or, "*without further proof of interest than the policy*," or, "*without benefit of salvage to the insurer*."

An *open policy* is where the amount of the interest of the insured is not fixed by the policy; but is left to be ascertained by the insured, in case a loss shall happen.

A *valued policy* is where a value has been set on the ship or goods insured, and this value inserted in the policy in nature of liquidated damages, to save the necessity of proving it, in case of a total loss: For, by allowing the value to be thus inserted in the policy, the insurer agrees that it shall be taken as there stated.—This value is, or ought to be, the real value of the ship, or the prime cost of the goods, at the time of effecting the policy (a), to-

(a) 2 *But.* 1171.

gether with the amount of the premiums and other expences of the insurance.

There may be many cases, however, in which an insured may have an interest in the thing insured, but the amount of which, it may be difficult or impossible for him to ascertain at the time when it is necessary to insure: As where *returns* are expected from abroad, the exact value, and even the nature of which are uncertain; so, in the case of a *prize*, where the real value of it can only be ascertained when it is brought into port and sold; and in every instance where the owners have been prevented from receiving regular or satisfactory advices from which the true amount of their interest might be ascertained.— In these and similar cases, the insured must put a value upon the things insured in the best manner he can, according to his means of judging of it; and it seems proper, and is become customary, in such cases, to insert a clause of valuation in the policy, which specifies a given sum as the value of the interest of the insured.— Thus; “ *In case of loss, the said ship is valued at 2000l. and the said goods at 5000l.* ”— Or, it estimates the value as equal to the sums subscribed. Thus;—“ *The said ship, goods, &c. valued at the sum insured.* ”

The value in such policy should be only the prime cost.

The only effect of the valuation is, that it fixes the amount of the interest in the same manner as if the insurer were to admit it at a trial; and for every purpose it must be taken, that the value was fixed so as that the insured might have an indemnity only, and no more.— If it be undervalued, the merchant himself runs the risk of the deficiency. If it be greatly over-valued, it must be with a bad view; either to a fraudulent loss, or to game contrary to the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37 (a).

Upon a valued policy, the amount being admitted, it is sufficient to prove some interest.

The value in the policy being always considered as the fair amount of the prime cost and expences of the insurance, the insured needs only to prove *some interest*, to take it out of the statute, because the insurer has admitted the amount; and if more were required, the agreed valuation

(a) Per Lord Mansfield in *Lewis v. Rucker*, 3 Bar. 1171.

would signify nothing (a).—And though it is said, in the case of *Harman v. Vanhatton* (b), that the law allows a man, having *some* interest in a ship or cargo, to insure more, or *five times as much*, because a merchant cannot tell how much, or how little, his factor may have in readiness to lade on board his ship: Yet it is not there said, that in case of loss, the insured might recover more than the amount of the real interest. And in a subsequent case, in the year 1716, the Lord Chancellor ordered the insured, in a valued policy on goods, to discover what goods he had on board. *Le Pyre v. Far,* 2 Vera. 716.

Though a valued policy, when thus fairly made, is distinguishable from a wager in this, that the former is founded on real interest, the amount of which is agreed by the policy, in the latter the insured has avowedly no interest at all: Yet, it must be owned that a valued policy frequently partakes of the nature both of a policy on interest, and of a wager. On the one hand, it supposes a *bona fide* interest in the insured; on the other, this interest is not always expected to be exactly commensurate with the amount of the insurer's obligation. There is a real interest it is true; but this frequently falls far short of the nominal value in the policy; and it too often happens that wager policies are effected under colour of a small interest, and in the form of valued policies, and the beneficial effects of the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. are thereby defeated. Distinction between a valued policy and a wager.

The value in the policy, however, ought only to be considered as *prima facie* evidence of the amount of the interest of the insured; for though this value is admitted by The value in the policy is only *prima facie* evidence of the interest.

(a) Per Lord *Mansfield*, ib.—*Magens*, who seems to have written his essay on insurances before the stat. 19 G. II., c. 37. though it was published after, says that in the case of a valued policy, the insured has nothing to prove, "*save that the goods valued were put on board.*"—Vid. 1. *Mag.* 28, 35. If this was the practice, while insurances without interest were supposed to be legal, how much more necessary to be observed now that they are declared by statute to be illegal, and are known to be highly detrimental to commerce.—(b) *Sup.* 124.

the insurer, yet, as he admits it upon the mere representation of the insured, if he afterwards find that this was fallacious, that it was fictitious, and only a cover for a wager, it cannot be supposed that he is so far concluded by his admission, as not to be at liberty to dispute the value, and shew by evidence that it was a mere evasion of the act.

How this is regulated by the French law.

By the law of *France*, the value in the policy is taken to be true, as against the insurer, till he prove the contrary (a). *Valin*, indeed, says that an insurer cannot be permitted to alledge fraud in the value specified in the policy, so as to be let in to shew a new valuation, without shewing that the value in the policy is at least *one-fourth too high* (b). *Pothier*, on the contrary, holds that the value is only to be taken as just, till impeached by the insurer; who may be let in to prove the valuation to be too high, even where there is an express clause in the policy to preclude such inquiry; such clauses being always held to be illegal (c), the rule of the civil law being, *Conventio, ne dolus præstetur, rata non est* (d) — If the exception to the valuation prevail, it either reduces the sum insured to the value of the goods, or, if fraud appear in the valuation, avoids the policy, and bars the demand of the insured: That is, if the insured *knew* that the goods were over-valued; or even where there is a *presumption* of fraud, arising from the concealment of a former insurance, the policy would be void, (e). For by the ordinance of the marine (f), the insurance shall be presumed fraudulent, if the insured do not declare all he has insured; or even if he demand payment beyond the value of the effects insured. For the moment the insured would turn a loss to his own advantage, and seek to recover more than he put in risk, with whatever good faith he might have made the original valu-

(a) *Valin* h. t. art. 64. p. 136. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 151. 159. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 271, 2. — (b) *Vid. Valin* art. 64. h. t. *Le Guidon*, ch. 2. art. 13. — (c) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 148. 156. — (d) *Dig.* lib. 13. tit. 6. n. 17. — (e) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 157. — (f) *Ord. de la mar.* h. t. art. 53, 54, 55.

ation, he is guilty of fraud (*a*). But however the excess may have originated, it is incumbent on him to shew that it proceeded from some error on his part, or on the part of his agents. *Pothier* and *Valin* say, however, that when the transaction admits of doubt, the judges, to mitigate the severity of the law, are more inclined to impute the fault to error than to fraud; and therefore, unless fraud be made evident, a justification is readily received (*b*).

In *England*, as we have already seen, we are not quite so rigid. Where a valued policy is *bonâ fide* meant as an *indemnity*, the courts will not enquire very minutely whether the valuation be very near the true interest of the insured. A small excess ought not to be regarded. Considering the uncertainty of every valuation, a scrupulous exactness in this point, would only occasion endless litigation. But, on the other hand, if the interest proved be a mere cover for a wager every court must pronounce the policy to be void, within the meaning of the statute (*c*).

In *England*, if the policy be meant as an indemnity, the valuation will not be scrupulously inquired into.

But if it be only a cover for a wager, it will be void.

It is only in the case of a total loss, that there is any material difference between an open and a valued policy. In the former, the value must be proved, in the latter it is admitted. But in the case of a partial loss, the like inquiry into the true amount of such loss is to be made, whether the policy be of the one sort or of the other. For if this were not to be done in the case of a valued policy, the consequence would be, either that every partial loss must be considered as a total one, or else that nothing should be deemed a loss at all, unless it were a total loss (*d*).

The only difference between an open and a valued policy is in the case of a total loss.

SECT. II.

How, and by whom the policy may be effected.

IT seldom happens that there is any direct communication between the insured and the insurer. The business of negotiating insurances with the underwriters,

Insurance brokers.

(*a*) *Emerig.* vol. 1. p. 271 272.—(*b*) *Valin*, art. 23. p. 67. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 78.—(*c*) *Vid. sup. c. 4. § 2.*—(*d*) *Vid. 2 Bur.* 1171.

Nature of their dealings.

and of getting policies effected, is usually transacted by brokers who make this branch of business their profession. These insurance brokers, from the importance of their employment, ought to be, and indeed generally are, persons of great respectability and honour, in whom unlimited confidence may be safely reposed. To the broker the merchant looks for the regularity of the contract, and a proper selection of responsible underwriters. To him also the underwriters look for a fair and candid disclosure of all material circumstances affecting the risk, and for the payment of their premiums.

Account between the broker and the underwriter.

There is usually an open account between each broker and every underwriter with whom he has much dealing, in which the broker makes himself debtor to the underwriter for all premiums, and takes credit for all losses to which the underwriter is liable, and which the broker is authorized to receive. Indeed it is generally understood that, by the usage of trade in *London*, the underwriters give credit only to the broker for their premiums, and can resort only to him for payment; and that he alone, and not the underwriters, can recover the premiums from the insured. This point, however, has never been settled by any judicial determination. Perhaps it would be for the interest of all parties if this rule were fully established, and constantly adhered to.

His liability for premiums extends only to legal insurances.

But the liability of the broker to the underwriter for premiums only extends to cases of legal insurance. And therefore where the broker, in his account delivered to the underwriter, gave credit for the premium of an illegal re-insurance, the underwriter cannot maintain an action for this premium, especially if it appear that the money had not been actually paid by the insured to the broker (a).

He has a lien on the policy in his hands for the general balance.

As the brokers are sometimes in advance to their employers, the law has given them a lien upon the policies in their hands for the general balance due to them in their character of brokers. And if a broker should part with the possession of a policy, whereby he loses his lien; yet

(a) *R. Edgar v. Fowler*, 3 *East*, 222.

if he get it into his hands again, for whatever purpose, his lien revives, and he may again hold it as a security for the general balance (a).

But though the underwriter thus looks to the broker for his premium, and though the broker in his account with the underwriter, takes credit for the losses and returns of premium which he is authorized to receive from the underwriter; yet, such losses are not to be looked upon as a *debt* from the underwriter to the broker.

Though the premium be a debt due from the broker, yet a loss is only due to the principal.

Therefore, where the assignees of a bankrupt who had been a policy broker, brought an action against the defendants, who were agents or factors to various correspondents abroad, and the defendants claimed, by way of set-off, the balance of an account between them and the bankrupts, in which they debited themselves for various premiums of insurance, made on behalf of their correspondents; and took credit for all losses and returns of premiums upon these insurances. The defendants had no commission *del credere*, and none of their correspondents were insolvent; but to all their correspondents, except one, they were in advance on account of insurances.—Upon this case, the court held that though credit for the premiums must be given to the broker, because the underwriters know nothing of the principals; yet, that they could not set off the losses or returns of premium due to the principals, and which *they* only could sue for, against a debt due from the defendants to the bankrupt.

Wilson and others assignees v. Creighton and others, B. R. M. 23 G. III, MS.

In a subsequent case, where the action was brought by the assignees of an underwriter against the factor, it was determined, that the defendant might set off losses upon policies subscribed by the bankrupt, and due to the defendant's correspondents: But there the defendant had a commission *del credere*, which Lord Mansfield said made him liable at all events to his correspondents for losses, without first bringing an action on the policy against the underwriter.

Grove v. Dubois, B. R. Hil. 26 G. III, MS. 1 R. 112. S. C.

(a) *R. Whitehead v. Vaughan* in B. R. Tr. 25 G. III. and *Parker v. Carter*, in C. B. Tr. 1788. *Cooke's Bank. Laws*, 4th ed. p. 579.

Where the underwriters give credit to the broker only, the broker may recover the premiums from the insured.

Airy and others, assignees of Mil-ton v. Blund, at G. H. after Trin. 14 G. III. M S.

The following case seems to prove, that where it is the practice for the underwriters to give credit to the broker only, the broker may maintain an action against the insured for the amount of the premiums of insurances effected for him, even though these premiums remain due to the underwriters.

An action was brought by the assignees of a broker at *Newcastle*, to recover the premiums of an insurance effected by him for the defendant on the ship *Jason*.—The question was, whether the credit was given to the insured or the broker. It was proved that the underwriters upon this policy told the broker that they should look to him for their premiums, and would have nothing to do with the insured; and several *London* insurance brokers being examined, swore they understood that the underwriters looked to them only, and that not once in ten times did the underwriters know who the insured were; and in case of failure, the underwriters came upon the effects of the broker, and the broker upon those of the insured.—Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, said,—“The plaintiff’s case is stronger than any reference to the general usage in *London* could make it; for the parties act by a specific rule, which they suppose to be the rule in *London*; and if the usage in *London* were doubtful, still the plaintiffs would be entitled to recover.”

If a broker engage another to effect policies, the underwriters may resort to the first broker for all premiums not paid over to the second broker.

Yet, if the broker employed by the insured employ a broker in another place, under a commission *del credere*, the underwriters may resort to the first broker for the premiums received by him, and not paid over to the broker who effects the policies, though they not only gave credit to that broker, but made him an allowance for becoming personally responsible for the premiums, and even after they have taken his notes for their respective balances of premiums, according to their usual course of dealing.

Ribson v. Wilson, R R East. 38 G. III. MS.

A. a broker at L. sends orders to B. a broker at N., to

As where the defendant *Wilson*, an insurance broker at *Liverpool*, entered into an agreement with *Stoddart*, carrying on the same business at *Newcastle*, to transmit all orders for insurances, to be effected at that place to *Stoddart*,

Stoddart, who was to charge *Wilson* with the premiums, and *Wilson* was to stand *del credere* to him for such premiums, to pay all losses, deducting the amount of premiums due from the persons entitled to such losses, and to allow the defendant 2*l.* 10*s.* *per cent.* upon the gross amount of the premiums of insurances thus effected; and also 2*l.* 10*s.* *per cent.* upon the net amount of such premiums, after deducting the returns made on the policies, and to give him twelve months credit for such premiums; but that, if *Wilson*, the defendant, should receive any sum for premiums previous to such credit, it should be immediately remitted to *Stoddart*. Under this agreement a number of policies were effected by *Stoddart* at *Newcastle*, many of which were underwritten by the plaintiff *Robson*. At *Newcastle* it is usual for the underwriters to give credit to the broker for the premiums, and he accounts with each underwriter at the end of every year, and gives his notes at three, six, and nine months for the balance due to each, deducting 5*l.* on every 105*l.* of the gross premiums as commission, and 5*l.* *per cent.* more on the net premiums, exclusive of returns, as a consideration for his becoming personally responsible for the net premiums, and sometimes 2*l.* 10*s.* *per cent.* for prompt payment. On the 13th of *February* 1797 the plaintiff settled with *Stoddart* to the 31st of *December* 1796, and received from him three notes for the general balance of the premiums of the preceding year. On the 10th of *May* 1797 the defendant *Wilson* settled accounts with *Stoddart*, and there was then a balance of 4,094*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* in favour of *Stoddart*. On the 8th of *June* 1797 *Stoddart* became a bankrupt, at which time 79*l.* remained in the hands of the defendant *Wilson* for premiums upon policies effected at *Newcastle* by *Stoddart*, by his order, and underwritten by the plaintiff *Robson*, who brought his action against the defendant *Wilson* to recover that sum, as being money had and received to his use; and the question was, whether the plaintiff, though he had *Stoddart's* notes for the balance due to him, was entitled to recover from the defendant the 79*l.* in his hands; or, in other words, whether the

effect insurances there upon a commission *del credere*. *B.* after giving the underwriters at *N.* his notes for their balances of premiums, becomes bankrupt:—The underwriters at *N.* have a right to resort to *A.* for all premiums received by him and not paid over to *B.*

money remaining in the hands of the defendant, being the balance of premiums settled between him and *Stoddart*, ought to be paid to the underwriters respectively, or to *Stoddart's* assignees.—The court were clearly of opinion in favour of the underwriters.—Lord *Kenyon* said:—"The plaintiff has underwritten several policies in respect of which premiums became due to him, but which have not been paid to him. These policies were effected through the medium of *Stoddart*, the agent of the defendant. If the defendant had paid *Stoddart*, or if he had been creditor of *Stoddart*, he could not have been called upon in this action. But here there is a considerable balance in *Stoddart's* favour. Upon *Stoddart's* bankruptcy 79*l.* remained, and still remain in the defendant's hands, which ought to have been remitted to *Stoddart*, for the payment of premiums upon policies which were effected by his orders. Where a factor has received money belonging to his principal, and it becomes blended with his own estate, and cannot be distinguished from it, the principal must come in with the general creditors. But here it is money clearly distinguishable from the bankrupt's estate. Before it is paid to the factor *del credere*, he becomes a bankrupt; it is therefore no part of the general fund, and the principal has a right to claim it."

Agent.

When the merchant happens to reside at a distance from the place where he means to be insured, the policy is usually effected by the intervention of his agent or correspondent there, who, if he be not himself a broker, employs one, and gives him all necessary instructions, with which he has been furnished for getting the insurance effected.

Authority of an agent.

To make a man an agent in such case, he must either have express directions from the principal to cause the insurance to be effected, or else it must be a duty arising from the nature of his correspondence with the principal. And no general authority which he may have in relation to a ship or goods, will make him an agent for the purpose of insuring on behalf of the parties interested. Therefore a ship's husband, regularly appointed by deed
executed

executed by all the owners, with power to advance, lend, &c. to make all payments, and to retain all claims, &c. has no right to make insurance for all, or any of the part owners, without a general direction from all, or a particular direction from each (a).

The office of ship's husband does not necessarily give him authority to insure.

Though one man cannot, in general, compel another against his consent, to become his agent to procure an insurance to be effected for him; yet there are three cases, wherein an order to insure must be complied with.

Three cases in which an agent is bound to comply with an order to insure.

—1st. Where a merchant abroad has effects in the hands of his agent or correspondent here, he has a right to expect that the agent will comply with an order to insure; because he is entitled to dispose of the money in his agent's hands in what manner he pleases.—2dly. Where the merchant abroad has no effects in the hands of his correspondent here; but the course of dealing between them has been such, that the one has been used to send orders for insurance, and the other to execute them; the former has a right to expect that his orders for insurance shall still be obeyed, unless the latter give him notice to discontinue that course of dealing.—3dly. Where the merchant abroad sends bills of lading to his correspondent here, with an order to insure, as the implied condition on which he is to accept the bills of lading; and the correspondent accepts the bills of lading, he must obey the order; for it is one entire transaction, and the acceptance of the bills of lading amounts to an implied agreement to perform the condition (b).

1st. Where he has effects in his hands.

2dly. Where he has been in the practice of making insurances, and has given no notice to discontinue.

3dly. When he accepts bills of lading sent him on condition to insure.

To the office of agent or broker, great responsibility attaches; and in the execution of it, therefore, it is the duty of each to conduct himself with the greatest fidelity, punctuality, and circumspection. For, in this, as in all other cases, where a man, either by an express or implied undertaking, engages to do an act for another, and he either wholly neglects to do it, or does it improperly or

The agent, as well as the broker, is answerable to his employer for negligence or unskillfulness.

(a) *R. French v. Backhouse*, 5 Bur. 2727.—(b) Per Buller, J. in *Wallace v. Tellfair*, at N. P. 2 T. R. 188. n. and in *Smith v. Lascelles*, 2 T. R. 188. *Ashburst* and *Grosé* Js. concurring.

unskilfully, an action on the case will lie against him to recover a satisfaction for the loss or damage resulting from his negligence, carelessness, or want of skill.

If the agent limit the broker to too small a premium, and so prevent the insurance from being effected, he is answerable.

Therefore, if a merchant here accept an order from his correspondent abroad to cause an insurance to be made, but limit the broker to too small a premium, in consequence of which no insurance can be effected; he is liable to make good the loss to his correspondent (a).—For though it is his duty to get the insurance done at as low a premium as possible, yet he has no right to limit the premium, so as to prevent the insurance from being effected.

Even a voluntary agent is liable, if he take any step in the business.

Even if a person voluntarily undertake to procure an insurance to be effected, without the expectation of any remuneration for his trouble; though, perhaps, he is not bound to perform his undertaking, yet, if in fact, he do proceed to execute it, he will be answerable for any negligence or unskilfulness in the conduct of it.

*Wilkinson v. Co-
verdale*, 1 Esp.
Rep. 74.

A. gratuitously offers to get a fire policy renewed and transferred to B. but omits to get the assignment made: A. is liable for any loss occasioned to B. by this omission.

Thus :—In an action on the case for negligence, it was stated in the declaration, that the plaintiff, in August 1792, purchased certain premises of the defendant, who had then a subsisting policy from the *Phoenix* fire office, from December 1791 to December 1792; that the defendant undertook to get this policy renewed on account of the plaintiff, and regularly transferred to him; that he did, in fact, renew the policy and paid 16% which he charged to the plaintiff, but neglected to get it transferred from himself to the plaintiff, by the proper indorsement at the fire office; in consequence of which, the plaintiff, who sustained a loss by fire, was unable to recover on the policy.—On the trial, it was admitted on the part of the plaintiff, that there was no consideration moving from the plaintiff to the defendant for his undertaking, but that the defendant had gratuitously undertaken to get the policy renewed and transferred.—On this being admitted, lord Kenyon, who tried the cause, expressed a doubt whether any action could be maintained on such

(a) Per Buller J. in *Wallace v. Telfair*, at N. P. 2 T. R. 188.
n. Vid. *Delaney v. Stoddart*, 1 T. R. 22.

an undertaking.—To remove this doubt, the plaintiffs counsel cited *Wallace v. Telfair*, a case similar to the present, in which Mr. Justice Buller had ruled at *nisi prius*,—"that though there be no consideration for one party's undertaking to procure an insurance to be effected for another; yet, that where a party voluntarily undertakes to do it, and proceeds to carry his undertaking into effect, by getting a policy underwritten, but does it so negligently or unskilfully that the insured can derive no benefit from it; in that case an action will lie against him."—Lord Kenyon acquiesced in this distinction, and suffered the cause to proceed: But the plaintiff failing in the proof of any promise by the defendant to procure insurance to be renewed and transferred as stated in the declaration, he was nonsuited.

So, where the defendant, who was a policy broker in London, employed another broker in London, by the directions of the plaintiff who resided at Liverpool, to effect a particular policy, but omitted, through inadvertence, to deliver to him, with his other instructions, a letter from the plaintiff, containing material information respecting the time of the ship's sailing, and which ought to have been shewn to the underwriters.—A loss having happened, the underwriters refused to pay on account of this concealment; and upon this ground the plaintiff, in an action on the policy against one of the underwriters, was nonsuited.—The plaintiff brought the present action against the defendant for the loss occasioned by his negligence in not delivering the letter to the broker who effected the insurance.—It was objected at the trial that as the defendant himself had no sort of remuneration for his trouble, an action could only be maintained against him upon the ground of wilful negligence.—But lord Eldon, who tried the cause, held clearly, that the defendant having taken upon himself to employ the other broker, he was bound to communicate to him all the instructions he had received, and having omitted to do this, he was liable for all the consequences.—In settling the amount of the damages in this case, the plaintiff insisted on including the cost of the action brought upon the policy.—But lord Eldon said that there was no necessity to

Seller v. Work,
at N. P. after
Hil. 1801. MS.

A broker employs another, but omits to give him all the instructions he is furnished with: He shall answer for the loss occasioned by his omission, though he derived no profit from the transaction.

The defendant is not liable for the costs of an action brought on the policy, unless it was brought by his desire.

to bring that action in order to entitle the plaintiff to recover in the present case ; and as it did not appear that the action upon the policy was brought by the desire, or with the concurrence, of the present defendant, he ought not to be charged with the costs of it.

The agent must also act fairly by the insurer.

Any fraud or concealment by him will avoid the policy, even though the insured be innocent of it.

In such action the plaintiff shall recover the same as in an action against the insurer.

But if the agent act in the usual manner, it will be sufficient.

But it is not only the duty of the agent, in transacting the business of insurances, to conduct himself with fidelity and punctuality towards his employer ; he is also bound to observe the strictest veracity and candour towards the insurer. Indeed he cannot be a faithful agent to the one, without dealing honourably with the other ; for any concealment, misrepresentation, or other fraud committed by the agent will have the same effect in avoiding the policy, as if it were committed by the insured himself, even though it be done without his privity or knowledge (*a*), or ignorantly (*b*), or even contrary to his directions. For it is a maxim of law that, if one of two innocent persons must suffer by the fraud or negligence of a third, the loss shall fall on him who trusted the third person.

In an action against an agent or broker for negligence or unskilfulness in effecting an insurance, the plaintiff is entitled to recover to the same amount as he might have recovered against the underwriters had the policy been properly effected. But he can only recover what, *in point of law*, he might have recovered on the policy ; and not what the indulgence or liberality of the underwriters might probably have induced them to pay (*c*).—And, in such an action, the agent may avail himself of every defence, such as fraud, deviation, non-compliance with warranties, &c., which the underwriters might have set up in an action on the policy (*d*).

But where the agent uses due diligence, and does what is usual to get the insurance effected, that is sufficient :

(*a*) *R. Stewart v. Dunlop*, post. c. 10. f. 1.—(*b*) *R. Fitzherbert v. Mather*, 1 T. R. 12. post. c. 9. f. 1.—(*c*) *R. Webster v. De Taftes*, 7 T. R. 157. sup. 90.—(*d*) Per Lord Kenyon, in *Wilkinson v. Coverdale*, at N. P., after M. 3; G. III.

As if he send to *Lloyd's*, and the underwriters refuse to take the risk, because the ship was not registered; and upon this he send to *Newcastle*, and get it done there: He has done all that could be required of him; and no action will lie against him for not insuring in *London*, especially if the owner has adopted his acts (a).

There are many reasons why an agent or broker ought not to be an underwriter on any policy which he effects as broker. He becomes too much interested to settle with fairness the rate of premium, the amount of partial losses, &c. And though he should not, himself, create any unnecessary delay or obstacle to the payment of a loss, he will not be over anxious to remove the doubts of others. Besides, he ought not, by underwriting the policy, to deprive the parties of his unbiassed testimony, in case of dispute. For though there may be no legal objection to his competency, as a witness for the other underwriters (b), it is impossible that his credit should be altogether free from suspicion. The principal, in short, can never place any reliance in one who makes himself an adverse party, and who is, at the same time, above all others, in a capacity to abuse his confidence.

An agent or broker ought not to be an underwriter.

The policy, when effected, becomes the property of the insured, in whose hands soever it may happen to be; subject, however, to any fair or equitable lien which the holder may have upon it: And if it be wrongfully withheld, the insurer may maintain an action of trover; and in such action he shall prove his loss, and recover in like manner as in an action against the insurer.

The insured may maintain trover for the policy, and recover as against the underwriters.

The broker, however, has a lien on the policy for the amount of his general balance against his employer. But where the employer acts as agent for a third person, the broker cannot retain the policy in his hands for the general balance, as between him and such agent, but only for the particular premiums paid upon such policy, though the insurance be made in the name of the agent. But where the agent, acting under a *del credere* commission, insures

The broker has a lien on the policy for the general balance, unless his employer acts as agent.

But if the broker be not informed that his employer acted as agent, his lien will be good.

(a) Per Buller J. at N. P. in *Smith v. Cologan*, 2 T. R. 118. n.
— (b) Vid. *Bent v. Baker*. 3 T. R. 27.

in his own name, and does not disclose to the broker that he acts as agent, the broker is entitled to retain in his hands the policy, or any money received from the underwriters upon it, for the general balance, as between him and the agent (a). But if the broker, from the nature of his instructions, have reason to conclude that his employer acted as an agent for a third person, and not on his own account, he will have no lien on the policy, or on any money received under it, for his general balance against such agent.

Maanfs v. Henderson, 1 Eust., 335.

Where the broker, from his instructions, has reason to conclude that his employer acted as agent, he cannot retain for his general balance, though the policy be effected in the name of his employer.

Therefore, where a *British* subject in time of war, received orders from a neutral foreigner, his correspondent, to effect an insurance for him, employed for this purpose a broker, whom he had been in the habit of employing, to effect insurances on account of others as well as for himself, but informed him that the property was *neutral*; and accordingly the policy, though effected in the name of the agent, warranted the property *neutral*.—An average loss having happened, the broker received this from the underwriters; and the agent having failed, the principal brought an action against the broker to recover the amount of the money received under the policy, as money received to his use. It was contended on the part of the broker, that he was entitled to retain the money in his hands for the general balance due to him from the agent.—Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, directed a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount of the average loss, deducting the premiums paid upon this policy, being of opinion that the information from the agent to the broker, that the property was *neutral*, was a sufficient indication to him that his employer was only acting as agent, though the name of the principal was not then disclosed; and, consequently, that the broker had no lien for his general balance against the agent, but only for the amount of the premiums paid on this policy.—Upon a motion for a new trial the court fully concurred in this opinion.

If an agent pretend that he has effected a policy, trover will lie against him for it, though none has been effected.

If an agent or broker, meaning to appropriate the premium to himself, and take the chance of a safe arrival,

(a) *Semb. George v. Claggett, 7 T. R. 359.*

represent to his employer that an insurance has been effected agreeably to his instructions, a practice but too prevalent, the principal may maintain trover for the policy against the agent or broker; and, upon proof of a loss, he shall recover to the same amount which he would have been entitled to recover against the underwriters, had a policy been effected.

Thus:—An action of trover was brought against the defendants, who were brokers, for a policy of insurance; and it appeared on the trial, that they had written to the plaintiff, the master of the vessel, that they had got two policies effected; the one on account of his clothes and wages, the other on account of the owners; and that the underwriter was Mr. *Newnham*.—A loss having happened, the defendants produced a policy underwritten by one *J. S.*, upon the ship only, in which the plaintiff had no interest.—Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, said;—“ I shall consider the defendants as the actual insurers, and therefore the plaintiff must prove his interest and loss.”—The defence set up was, that the letter to the plaintiff was written by the defendant's clerk through mistake: It was also contended that trover would not lie for that which never existed.—But his lordship would not suffer the defendants thus to contradict their own representation; and the plaintiff accordingly had a verdict to the amount of his interest, deducting the premium.

Harding v Carter, and another, at N.P. East. Vac. 1781. *Park* 4.

A broker informs his employer that he has effected a policy for him;—In trover for the policy, the plaintiff shall prove his loss as in an action against the insurer; and the broker shall not be permitted to say that no such policy exists.

SECT. III.

Of the Form and Requisites of the Policy.

IT is very probable that the form of a policy of insurance nearly similar to that which we have now in use, was introduced into *England* by the *Lombards*, with their other commercial improvements (a). In the course of several centuries this form must have undergone some

At what time the present form was introduced.

(a) Vid. *Malynes lex merc.* 108.

alteration.

alteration. But the fear of departing too far from the original must have suggested the clause inserted in every policy, that 'it shall be of as much force and effect as the surest writing or policy of assurance heretofore made in *Lombard-street*,' &c. And merchants, apprehensive of the danger attending every innovation in the forms of commercial contracts, have always been particularly tenacious of the form of this important instrument, though, in itself, extremely inaccurate, and unskilfully framed (a). But length of time, frequent discussion, and repeated decisions upon the construction of it, have reduced it to a considerable degree of certainty.

How construed.

From the nature and object of this contract, courts of justice have always construed it according to the intention of the parties, and so as that the indemnity of the insured, and the advancement of trade, which are the great objects of insurance, may be attained. The *strictum jus*, or *apex juris*, is not to be laid hold of; but it is to be construed largely for the benefit of trade, and of the insured. The construction should also be according to the course of the trade in the place (b). But there are no rules of construction peculiarly applicable to this instrument: Such as apply to all other instruments equally apply to this, viz. that it is to be construed according to its sense and meaning; that the terms of it are to be understood in their plain, ordinary, and popular acceptance, unless, by the known usage of trade, they have acquired some peculiar and appropriate meaning, or unless the context evidently shews that they must, in the particular instance, and to effectuate the manifest intention of the parties, be understood in some other special and peculiar sense. The only difference between a policy of insurance and other instruments in this respect is, that the greater part of the printed language of it, being a general formula, adapted equally to all cases of marine insurances, has

(a) Mr. Justice Buller says, that it has always been considered in courts of law as an absurd and incoherent instrument. 4 T. R. 210.— (b) Per *Lee*, C. J. in *Turney v. Esthington*, cited by Lord Mansfield, 1 Bur. 348.

acquired from use and practice a known and definite meaning; and that the parts which are filled up in manuscript, being in the terms selected by the parties for the expression of their own meaning, are entitled, where any doubt arises upon the construction of the whole, to have a greater effect ascribed to them than to the printed words.

When a clause is clear in itself, it ought to be understood literally (a). But when clauses are obscure, the best and only mode of fixing their meaning is by the rules of the common law; because the parties must be presumed to make their agreements subject to that law.

The interpretation should be by the rules of the common law.

It is often necessary to introduce additional clauses into the policy, to adapt it to the particular stipulations of the parties, and it cannot but be matter of surprize to observe that these clauses, though sometimes of the utmost importance, are drawn up, not only without advice, but even without common attention to their import. Lord *Mansfield*, while observing upon the inaccuracy of one of these clauses, declared that he did not recollect an instance of an addition of this sort, which had not created doubts on the construction of it; and this frequently happened where a word or two, more or less, would have rendered the whole perfectly clear (b).

Occasional clauses.

In construing such occasional clauses it might not be improper to enquire by whom they were introduced; for if the party introducing them might have explained himself clearly and explicitly, his not doing so ought not to afford him an occasion to impose restrictions upon the other party, which he has not distinctly expressed (c).

How occasional clauses should be construed.

The usual requisites of a policy are ten, which we will consider in their order.

The usual requisites of a policy.

(a) *Il n'est pas permis d'interpréter ce qui n'a pas besoin d'interprétation.* Vattel. liv. 2. ch. 17. n. 263.—(b) Doug. 257.—(c) *Pactionem obscuram iis nocere, in quorum fuit potestate legem apertius conscribere.* Dig. l. 2. tit. 14. de pactis leg. 39.—*Labco scriptis obscuritatem pacti nocere potius debere venditori qui id dixerit, quam emptori; quia potuit re integrā apertius dicere.* Dig. l. 18. tit. 1. de cont. imp. leg. 21.

1. *The Name of the Insured, his Agent or Trustee.*

In France the policy was underwritten in blank, and afterwards filled up.

In *France* it was usual, at the time *Emerigon* wrote, for the broker to produce the policy in blank to the underwriters, who signed it without seeing more than a short memorandum indorsed on it; and the broker afterwards filled it up at his leisure. It must be owned that there are sometimes critical moments which will admit of no delay: Nothing, however, but a case of such urgent necessity can justify so extraordinary a practice; and though several laws had been made to restrain it, it still continued to prevail, at least at *Marseilles* (a).

When the policy was filled up, it was necessary to insert the name of the insured, and whether he were agent or principal (b).

Policies in *England* were formerly in blank.

Remedied in 1774, as to insurances on lives.

With us it was formerly the practice to effect policies in blank, as to the name of the insured. This being found productive of many inconveniences, a regulation was adopted in *England*, in the year 1774, with respect to insurances upon lives (c), similar to some that had been introduced in some foreign countries, on the subject of marine insurances; and about the year 1785, it became a subject of complaint amongst underwriters that policies were so loose and indefinite, that they had no opportunity of knowing for whom the insurances were made, nor what was the nature of the things insured. They therefore desired to know at least the name of somebody concerned, no matter whether the principal or the agent; for though they might not know the principal, yet, if they knew the agent, they might have some confidence, that if he were a merchant, or other person of character, he would not be engaged in a dishonest transaction (d).

The 15 G. III. c. 44 required the name of the insurer, or his agent, to be inserted, if he resided in *Great Britain*; if not, the name of his agent.

These considerations induced the legislature to pass the stat. 25 G. III. c. 44. which, after reciting that certain

(a) *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 47. Vid. 2 *Magens*, 65, 169.—
 (b) *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 55.—(c) Stat. 14 G. III. c. 48.—
 —(d) Vid. Mr. Justice *Buller's* observations on the statutes, 25 and 28 G. III. 1 *Bos.* and *Pul.* 321 and 352.

mischiefs had resulted from the practice of effecting marine insurances in blank, directed ‘ That where the insured resided in *Great Britain*, his name, or that of his agent, should be inserted in the policy, as the person interested; and where he resided abroad, the name of his agent should be inserted.’

Upon the construction of this act it was, soon after the passing of it, determined, that the agent’s name must be inserted, *eo nomine* as agent; and that if the principal were abroad, the agent, in whose name the insurance was made, must be resident here (*a*); and it was likewise holden that the names of *all* the parties interested should be also inserted (*b*).

How this was construed.

This being found productive of greater inconveniences than those which the act was meant to remove, it was repealed by the stat. 28 G. III. c. 56. But it was still thought advisable to restrain the making of policies in blank; and therefore this last act provides, that ‘ No person shall effect any policy, on any ship or goods, without first inserting the name or names, or the usual stile and firm of dealing, of one or more of the persons interested; or of the consignor or consignors, consignee or consignees, of the property to be insured; or of the person or persons residing in *Great Britain* who shall receive the order for, and effect such policy; or of the person or persons who shall give the order to the agent or agents immediately employed to negotiate or effect such policy; and every policy made contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall be null and void.’

Repealed by the 28 G. III. c. 56. which enacts that the names or firm of the persons interested, or of one of them, or of the consignor or consignee of the person who gives or receives the order to insure, shall be inserted.

Upon the construction of this act it has been determined, that it ought not to be taken in its strict literal sense, but ought to receive a liberal construction, according to its *true intent and meaning*. And therefore, if bills of exchange, drawn on the consignee of a cargo of goods,

This act to be construed liberally.

(*a*) *R. Praye v. Edie*, 1 T. R. 313.—(*b*) Per Buller, J. in *Wilton v. Reaſon*, at N. P. after Mich. 1787, *Park*, 17. In *Cox v. Parry*, 1 T. R. 464. it was holden that executors could not recover on a policy, because the testator’s name was not inserted in it.

for the amount of them, be sent, together with bills of lading, by the consignor to his general agent, with directions to deliver the bills of lading to the consignee, on his accepting the bills of exchange; if the consignee refuse to receive the goods, or to accept the bills of exchange, the agent becomes in effect the consignee, within the meaning of the statute; and may insure the goods as agent for the consignor; or, in his own right, if he have accepted bills on the credit of the goods.

Self and others v. Horncastle, 1 B. & P. 316.

A. having consigned goods to *B.* and drawn bills on him in favour of *C.* his general agent, sends these bills, together with the bills of lading, to *C.* desiring him to transmit them to *B.* that *B.* may insure. *A.* also draws a bill on *C.* for 300 l. which is accepted, and paid.

B. refuses to take the goods, or accept the bills drawn on him. *C.* then insures in his own name, and informs *A.* thereof, who approves what he has done.—*C.* may maintain an action on the policy, as agent of *A.* and aver the interest to be in him, *C.* being in effect consignee, on *B.*'s refusal to take the goods, and also having received, as well as given, the order to insure.

—*C.* may also declare in his own right, having an insurable interest to the amount of 300 l.

Thus:—An insurance was made by the plaintiffs, 'as well in their own names, as for and in the name and names of all and every other person or persons to whom the same did, might, or should appertain, in part or in all, upon goods on board the ship *Fabrsunds Wharf*, at and from *Fabrsund* to *London*.'—The ship being lost on the voyage insured, an action was brought on this policy; and the first count in the declaration averred that the insurance was made by the plaintiffs residing in *Great Britain*, as agents, and for the use of one *Jochum Brink Lund*, who was interested in the goods to the amount of the sum insured; and the second count averred the interest to be in the plaintiffs, and that they made the insurance on their own account. The defendant having tendered the premium, pleaded the tender. Upon the trial of the cause it appeared, that the plaintiffs were the general agents in *London* of one *Lund*, a merchant at *Fabrsund* in *Norway*, who having on the 12th of *November* 1796, shipped 574 sacks of mofs at *Fabrsund*, consigned to certain persons in *London*, under the firm of the *Cudbear* company, and upon their account and risk, transmitted to the plaintiffs the invoice and bill of lading, in a letter containing these words,—'Please to hand the inclosed to the *Cudbear* company, that these friends may have an opportunity to secure themselves by insuring the mofs cargo, the season being so far advanced.' On the 10th of *December* 1796, *Lund* drew a bill on the *Cudbaar* company for 1112 l. 8 s. 2 d. the amount of the cargo, in favour of the plaintiffs, and sent it to them to procure acceptance thereof, and place it to his credit; and, at the same time, advised the plaintiffs that he had drawn on them for 300 l. which bill they afterwards accepted and paid.

The

The *Cudbear* company received the bill of lading and invoice, and the bill for 1112 l. 8 s. 2 d. being presented to them for acceptance, they refused to accept it, or take the cargo, or insure it; and returned the bill of lading and invoice to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs thereupon caused the above insurance to be made on the 9th of *January* 1797, without any order so to do; and the next day wrote to *Lund*, informing him what had been done. *Lund*, in his answer, approved of their having taken the precaution to insure the mofs cargo, and informed them of the ship's having failed.—On this case it was contended on the part of the defendant, that the stat. 28 G. III. c. 56. (a), requires that the name of the person interested, or of the consignor, or consignee, or of the person who gives, or receives, the order to insure, should be inserted in the policy; none of which characters applied to the plaintiffs, who had received no order to insure, at the time the policy was effected; and the subsequent approbation of *Lund* could not be deemed equivalent to a previous order, and therefore the policy was void.—But the court determined that the policy was good within the meaning of the statute, and that the plaintiffs had an insurable interest.—Mr. Justice *Buller* (b) said,—“If the defendant can bring his case within the statute, he has a right to do so, and we are bound to give him judgment. But he has brought it neither within the words or meaning of the statute: And even if he had brought it within the words, and not within the meaning, I should be clearly of opinion, that we ought to decide against him, according to the directions of the statute, which in the last clause says, “Every policy of insurance made contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall be null and void.” By putting the two acts 25 G. III. (c) and 28 G. III. together, we may learn the true spirit and meaning of the latter of these acts, which we are bound to say, must receive the most liberal construction that the words will bear. From the language of the two statutes, as well as the consideration that we are construing

(a) Sup. 307.—(b) Lord C. J. *Eyre* was absent.—
(c) Sup. 306.

a contract *uberrima fidei*, viz. a policy of insurance, we must avoid being harder upon the plaintiffs than is absolutely necessary. Let us see whether the plaintiffs do, or do not, come within any of the descriptions of persons in the last statute. These descriptions are four; the *consignor* and *consignee*, the person *receiving*, and the person *giving*, the order. The plaintiffs are certainly not the consignors; but I am by no means clear that they are not the consignees. It is true that the goods were originally consigned to another person: But the case must be considered as it stood at different periods; and though the *Cudbear* company were clearly the consignees at first, it does not follow that they continued to be so. A consignee is a person to whom the goods are to be delivered when they arrive at the port of delivery. *Lund*, that he may be sure of being paid, and not chusing to trust the *Cudbear* company, sends the bill of lading, with a bill on them for acceptance to the plaintiffs, who are his general agents. If the *Cudbear* company had received the goods, they would have been the consignees; but they refused to receive them. Then who was entitled to receive them? It cannot be pretended, that nobody had the right. The captain could not keep them. Then, to whom could the right belong, but to the persons who had the bill of lading, and were the general agents of the consignor? From the moment, therefore, that the *Cudbear* company refused the goods, the plaintiffs became the consignees. If this be so, there is no objection to the policy, and I am satisfied I do not carry this construction too far, in favour of the justice of the case.—The next character mentioned in the statute, is *the person who receives the order* to make insurance. The goods were originally intended for the *Cudbear* company. But they were sent, accompanied by a letter, from which the plaintiffs must have seen that it was *Lund's* intention to have them insured. It was his interest that they should be insured; and it is agreed, that a general agent has a right to exercise his discretion for the benefit of his principal. He must act on the spur of the occasion; and if nothing else had passed, I have doubts whether *Lund* would not have been liable to pay the premium. But his subsequent approbation brings

A general agent may insure without an order for that purpose, when it is for the interest of his correspondent that he should do so.

brings the case within the maxim, that *omnis ratihabitio retrotrahitur, et mandato priori equiparatur*. I am clear, therefore, that the plaintiffs received the order to make this insurance, within the meaning of the act.—The last character mentioned in the act, is the *person giving the order* to make insurance. Now it is impossible to state a case that comes more directly within the act of parliament than this. Here the plaintiffs were the persons immediately concerned; they employed the broker, and gave the immediate order for the insurance, and consequently they come within the words of the act. The case, therefore, upon the first count, is clear of all objections, and is in law, conscience, and justice, in favour of the plaintiffs.—With respect to the second count, I hold that the plaintiffs had a clear right to insure to the amount of 300 l. for which they were interested in the goods. I agree that a debt which has no reference to the article insured, and which cannot make a *lien* on it, will not give an insurable interest. But a debt which arises in *consequence* of the article insured, and which would have given a *lien* on it, does give an insurable interest. The case is not at all altered by the circumstance of the goods not having arrived. There is no transaction more common in the city of *London*, than to raise money on the security of a bill of lading and policy. These plaintiffs, having advanced their money on that security, must, if the goods had arrived, have received 300 l. out of them. The goods being lost, the policy stands in place of them, and the plaintiffs are entitled to receive that sum under it. The chief justice, when this case was first moved, delivered a clear opinion in favour of the plaintiffs, and I think the case most decidedly with them.”

A debt which would have given a *lien* on the thing insured, gives an insurable interest.

So, where an insurance was effected in the name of *Grandelos Mesle* and company, who were brokers, and also agents to *De Vignier* the plaintiff in several money transactions, and both resided in *London*. *Grandelos Mesle* and company were not described as agents in the policy, but in the declaration were stated to be “the persons residing in *Great Britain* who received the order for and “effected the insurance,” and the interest was averred

De Vignier v. Swanston, 1 Bos. and Pul. 346. n.

If the name of the broker effecting the policy be inserted in it, it is a sufficient compliance with the 28 G. III. c. 56. though he be not described therein as agent.

to be in the plaintiff.—A verdict being found for the plaintiff, the defendant moved to set it aside and enter a nonsuit, on an objection to the form of the policy, as not sufficiently complying with the stat. 28 G. III. c. 56., because effected in the name of *Grandelos* and company, without stating them to be *agents*. But upon the case coming on to be heard, lord *Kenyon* said, he was surprised to find that the rule had been drawn up, as there was nothing in the case; and accordingly it was discharged without argument.

Bell v. Gilson,
1 Bos. and Pul.
345. sup. 86.

So, though it should appear that the agent named in the policy be not *general* agent, but only agent for that particular purpose.

The same objection was made, notwithstanding the two foregoing cases, in a case in which the policy described *Barret* and company, the brokers, in whose names it was effected, “as agents;” and a distinction was endeavoured to be made between this and the two foregoing cases, upon the ground, that in those, the person named in the policy, was the *general* agent of the party interested; whereas, in this case, *Barrett* and company were only agents for this purpose.—But the court overruled this objection, saying, that after the two foregoing decisions, one in the *King’s Bench*, and the other in the *Common Pleas*, within the same term, upon the same point, this question ought to have remained at rest.

Vid. sup. ch. 5.
§. 2.

2. The Names of the Ship and of the Master.

In every policy the ship must be named.

Every policy on a *ship* must necessarily identify the vessel which is meant to be insured, and this is done by merely naming the vessel and the master.—So, in almost all cases of insurance upon *goods*, it is usual and necessary to specify in the policy the ship in which they are to be transported: For, as ships are not all of equal strength and goodness, nor equally capable of performing any particular voyage, the insurer would be unable to form a just judgment of the risk, unless he were informed of the name and description of the vessel (*a*). This being
inserted

(a) *Quia non par est ratio affecurationis, quando merces debentur, in una navi, et quando in altera; imo solet id principaliter*

inserted in the policy, it becomes a part of the contract that the adventure shall be on board the very ship specified, and no other; nor can any other vessel be substituted for it unless through necessity, or with the consent of the insurer (a). Therefore, if the ship be not truly named, but the name of *another ship* inserted by mistake in its place, the policy will be void (b).

Thus: If a merchant cause three several parcels of goods to be insured, each of the value of 1,000*l.*, one on board the *Neptune*, another on board the *Triton*, and the third on board the *Venus*; but he afterwards find it convenient to load all the three parcels on board the *Neptune*: In that case the underwriters would not be liable to the risk on all the goods to the amount of 3,000*l.*, but only on goods to the amount of 1,000*l.*, which, by the terms of the policy were to be laden on board the *Neptune*; and as to the remaining 2,000*l.*, the policy would never attach (c).

But, to prevent the ill consequences that might result from a mistake in the name of the vessel or of the master, there are inserted in every policy these words; ‘*or by whatsoever other name or names the same ship or the master thereof is, or shall be, named or called.*’ So that, if the identity of the ship can be proved, and no fraud be meant, a mistake in the name of the ship will not vitiate the contract. The rule is, *Error nominis navis non attenditur quando aliis conjecturis constat de identitate navis*; which is founded on the general principle, that *error nominis non nocet cum de re constat* (d). As where a ship insured was called the *Leopard* in the policy, but it appeared in evidence that her true name was the *Leonard*, it was objected that this was not the ship insured. But the identity being proved, it was holden that the above

If three parcels of goods be insured on board three several ships, and all are put on board one; the policy will be good only as to the particular parcel destined for that ship.

But a mistake in the name will not vitiate the policy, if the identity be proved.

Hall v. Molineux.
coram Lee, C. J.
at G. H. 17th
December 1744.
cited 6 East 355.

S. P.

ter considerari inter ipsos affecuratores, cum ita navis sit, magis fortis quam alia. Roc. h. t. n. 28. Vid. Santerna, h. t. p. 3. n. 313 Stracca, glos. 8. n. 10.— (a) The subject of changing the ship is fully treated, sup. c. 5. § 2.— (b) *Pothier*, h. t. n. 105.— (c) Vid. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 68.— (d) Vid. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 105.

words

Le Mesurier
and another
v. *Vaughan*,
6 East 352.

S. P.

In what cases
goods may be in-
sured, on board
ship or ships.

Vid. sup. ch. 5.
§ 3.

The species of
vessel must be
truly described.

words in the policy protected the insured from the effect of the variance (a).

So where the policy described the insurance to be 'on board the good ship called, *The American Ship President*,' this was taken to be all *name*, and not a warranty of her being an *American* ship called the *President*. And the policy, as usual, containing the above clause, and the identity of the ship mentioned in the policy with that which contained the goods which were meant to be insured, being proved, it was holden to be no variance that the real name of the ship was the *President*.

It often happens, however, that, in the trade carried on with distant countries, particularly in time of war, it is uncertain by what ships goods may be sent from thence to *Europe*. It is, therefore, of great importance to the merchant to be at liberty, in such cases, to avail himself of the first vessels that may offer for that purpose, and to make his insurance on the goods on board such vessels; and, in such case, the policy is upon the goods '*on any ship or ships*;' and this is now so well established, both by usage and authority, that the legality of it is indisputable.

Not only the name, but also the species of vessel ought to be truly described; and if this be done falsely, in order to mislead the insurer, and diminish the risk, as if a brig, a sloop, or other small vessel be described as a *ship*; this will vitiate the contract. For though the word *ship*, in its general signification, comprehends every different species of vessel, both great and small, which navigates the seas; yet, in a policy of insurance, the word *ship* is used in contradistinction to other vessels, and means a vessel with three masts, and generally of larger dimensions; and in such case an underwriter would have a right to say that he understood the policy to be on a *ship*, and that he would not have insured a sloop or brig. But if the error in the description of the vessel arise only from mistake or inadvertence, and it do not affect the risk; or if the insurers knew upon what vessel the risk

(a) Vid. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 105.

was to be run, the false description in the policy will not affect the contract (a).

Emerigon says, that if the insurance be made on a *privateer*, this should be mentioned in the policy: And even in the case of a *letter of marque* it is prudent, he says, to describe her as such. And he adds, that if this circumstance be not declared, and the ship be captured in pursuit of an enemy which she might have avoided, the insurers shall not answer for the loss (b).

If the ship be a privateer or a letter of marque, she should be described as such.

The name of the master, also, should be specified; because his character and ability are material subjects of consideration in estimating the risk (c). If the name of the master stood alone in the policy, without any clause to enable the insured to employ another in his place, it would be a part of the contract that he, and no other, should go for master; nor could any other be substituted in his place, unless in a case of necessity, or by consent of the insurer. To obviate the difficulties that must arise from this, the following words are always added in our policies, “*or whosoever else shall go for master in the said ship* (d).”—But though this clause enables the owner to change the master when he sees occasion to do so; yet he ought not to do this wantonly or unnecessarily; much less ought he to name one, when he means to employ another; for this could only be done for the purpose of deceiving the underwriters, and would, of itself, be strong evidence of fraud.

The name of the master must likewise be specified.

But the owner may change the master.

But this ought not to be done unnecessarily.

3. *The subject Matter of the Insurance.*

The policy must likewise specify the subject matter of the insurance, whether it be goods, ships, freight, *respondentia* or bottomry securities, or other things.

(a) *Emerig*, tom. 1. p. 164. — (b) *Emerig*. tom. 1. p. 161. — (c) In *France* and *Holland* the insertion of the names of the ship and the master is enjoined by positive law. With us there is no such law. The whole rests on usage and the obvious necessity of inserting what it is so proper for the insurer to know. — (d) The *French* expresses it, ‘*ou autre pour lui.*’ This clause appears to be very ancient, and is found in the forms of the policies of most foreign countries. Vid. *Emerig*. tom. 1. p. 162.
If

It may be on goods and merchandizes generally.

Or the goods may be specified.

If the goods specified be not put on board, the policy will be void, though the insured have other goods of equal value on board.

When the goods consist of but few articles, or are valued by the hogshead, pipe, bale, &c. they are generally specified.

If the insurance be on goods, it is not necessary to particularize the different sorts; it is usually expressed to be ‘*upon any kind of goods or merchandizes.*’ In many cases it would be impossible to specify the different sorts of goods of which a cargo may consist; and this is the less necessary, because the memorandum inserted at the foot of every policy, protects the underwriter from any partial losses on those articles which are most perishable, and from small partial losses on all others (a).—

Where the particular goods insured are meant to be specified, this is usually done at the foot of the policy; thus, ‘*On woollen cloth;*’ sometimes on goods generally, with the mark of each bale, cask, &c.—It is not necessary that the goods should be specified in the policy; yet this is sometimes done for the satisfaction of the underwriters.

And where they are specified, if they be not put on board, the policy will be void, although the insured have other goods of equal value on board. As if an insurance be made on goods by the name of *piece goods*; and, by the invoice, it appear that the goods shipped were *hats*, the insurer shall not be liable for any loss upon the hats (b).

Emerigon lays down the same rule, and says that, if an insurance be made on a quantity of *tortoise shell* on board a certain ship; but instead of tortoise shell, a quantity of *indigo* be shipped for the insured, the insurer shall not be liable for any loss upon the indigo.—So, if an insurance be made on *oils and barilla*; this will not protect a cargo of *soap*, though these are the principal ingredients in soap. The species of a thing is ascertained by its substantial form.—That being changed, produces a new species and destroys the old. And yet an insurance on ingots of gold has been holden to protect the metal converted into utensils or coin; because the substance is specifically the same, and may be converted into ingots again (c).

When, indeed, a cargo consists of very few articles, it may be proper to specify them particularly. And where the goods are valued by the hogshead, pipe, bale,

(a) Vid. sup. c. 7. § 3.—(b) Per Sir J. Mansfield, Ch. J. in *Hunter v. Prinsep*, at G. H. 18th July 1806.—(c) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 299, 300, 301.

&c. it is of course to specify the commodity. But if an insurer subscribe a policy 'upon any kind of goods and merchandizes,' there can be no question but that he is bound by it, though no one article be specified (a).

Where an insurance is upon the ship and goods on board, without specifying them, and the ship touches at a port in the course of the voyage insured, and there lands goods and takes others on board, either in exchange for them, or purchased with the proceeds of them; the *French* writers lay it down that the goods so newly taken on board are substituted in the policy for those that were landed, become part of the subject matter of the insurance, and are protected by the policy to the extent of the sum insured, in like manner as the goods originally put on board (b).

If goods insured generally be exchanged for others in the course of the voyage, the new goods become part of the subject matter of the insurance.

Respondentia and bottomry securities are a species of property which may be the subject of insurance, though they are in effect themselves a species of insurance. But then they must be particularly and specifically described in the policy; for, under the general denomination of *goods*, these securities cannot be insured.

Respondentia and bottomry securities must be insured *eo nomine* as such.

Thus:—An insurance was made, 'on *goods and merchandizes*, on board a certain ship, at and from *Bengal* to *London*.'—Before the signing of the policy, the plaintiff had lent captain Tryon 764*l.* upon respondentia, upon goods of greater value belonging to him on board the ship, and for which he gave a respondentia bond in the common form. The ship and goods were consumed by fire and totally lost.—On this case, the question was, whether the plaintiff could recover the amount of the respondentia interest, upon this policy on *goods*.—On the part of the plaintiff was cited the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. s. 5. (c) which provides, "that money lent on bottomry or respondentia, in the *East India* trade, shall be lent only on the ship or goods, and insured only by the *lender*; and that the borrower shall not recover on any insurance more than the value of his interest in the ship or goods, *exclusive* of the

Glover v. Black, 3 Bar. 1394. 1 Bl. 399. 405. 422.

In an action on a policy on *goods*, the plaintiff cannot give in evidence a respondentia bond as a proof of interest in the goods which the obligor has on board.

(a) Vid. 1 Mag. 8. — (b) *Valin* sur art. 27. h. t. p. 78.; *Pothier* h. t. n. 63.; *Emerig.* t. 2. p. 38. — (c) Sup. 128. money

money borrowed ; and that, if this do not amount to the sum borrowed, he shall be responsible to the lender for so much as he has not laid out on the ship or goods, with interest, insurance, and all other charges." And it was argued from thence, that respondentia interest was insurable as goods, *eo nomine*, because the one is made the measure of the other ; and the insurer always considers respondentia as goods, since he allows the bond itself to be the only proof of interest necessary, and never enquires after the value of the goods.—On the part of the defendant it was insisted, that the lender of money upon respondentia, had not, like a mortgagee, an interest in the goods of the borrower on board ; for the property and possession both remained in the borrower ; and therefore respondentia ought to be insured *nominatim*, and specifically ; and that if an insurance on goods entitled the insured to recover on a respondentia interest, the insurer would be liable to be defrauded ; for if the ship came home safe, the insured would be entitled to a return of premium, upon shewing, *that he had had no goods on board* ; but in case of loss, he might claim, as he then did, upon his respondentia interest.—The court were unanimously of opinion, that a respondentia bond was not evidence of an insurable interest in the goods on which the money was lent.—Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the judgment of the court, said : —“ At the trial of this cause, and since, I have leaned as much as possible to support this insurance ; because it appeared to have been made in this form, not through design, but merely by a slip, in not inserting the word respondentia. To be sure, the stat. 19 G. II. c. 37. §. 5. does not consider the owner of the goods as having a right to insure for more than the surplus value of the goods, above the money borrowed on respondentia. To many purposes the respondentia creditor has a *lien* on the goods : But we are satisfied that this act never meant to alter the manner or form of insurances ; it only meant to prevent wagering policies. The act itself describes the insurance by the creditor to be on the *money lent*, and leaves it upon the practice. Now, in practice, bottomry and respondentia have always been considered as a particular species of insurance ; and have taken a particular

cular denomination. All the forms express the insurance to be on bottomry or respondentia : Nor is there a *dictum* that respondentia can be insured under the denomination of *goods*. It would be very dangerous, therefore, to establish a precedent to the contrary; since the consequence may be bad, and introductive of frauds, though we cannot now see the particular mode of them. The ground of our determination is, that, by the custom of merchants, respondentia is insured under a special denomination. But we by no means say, that under an insurance on goods at large, a man may not be permitted to give in evidence a mortgage or other special *lien*."

Yet the usage of a particular trade may sanction a departure from this rule.—As where the captain of an *East Indiaman* made an insurance on "*goods, specie, and effects* on board : He was permitted to recover for money laid out for the use of the ship in the course of the voyage, and for which he charged *respondentia interest*; it being proved that this sort of interest was always insured in this manner in the *East India* trade.

Gregory v. Christie, B. R. Tr.
24 G. III. sup.
272.

An exception to this rule.

There are even certain articles, which, though they may be properly called goods, yet are not comprehended under the general denomination of goods, wares, and merchandizes in the policy; and therefore the insurer is not liable for any loss upon these articles, unless they be specifically named : Such are the master's clothes, and the ship's provisions, which are considered as a part of the furniture of the ship (*a*).—Neither are goods lashed to the deck comprehended under the name of goods, unless they be particularly described; because they are exposed to greater danger than goods usually are, and consequently the premium for insuring them is greater (*b*).

The master's clothes, the ship's provisions, and goods lashed to the deck, cannot be insured as goods.

Vid. sup. ch. 3. f. 5.

It has been questioned whether foreign coin, jewels, or bullion, could be insured under the general denomination of goods, wares, and merchandizes (*c*). It certainly appears from *Magen's* collection of foreign ordinances (*d*)

Money, jewels, or bullion, may be insured under the denomination of goods.

(*a*) Vid. *Brough v. Whitmore*, 4 T. R. 206. — (*b*) *R. Ross v. Thwaites*, at N. P. Park 20. post. c. 16. §. 5. — (*c*) *Park*. 22. — (*d*) 2 *Magens*, 71. 89. 131. 187.

But the insurer is not liable for the risk of a clandestine exportation of these articles.

Jewels, &c. worn by persons on board, are not included in a policy on goods.

An insurance on a ship does not cover the cargo on board.

that in some places there are positive regulations which require that gold and silver, whether coined or uncoined, and jewels, shall be particularly specified in the policy. In *France*, these articles may be insured under the denomination of goods and merchandizes, provided the transport of them be not prohibited (*a*). And with us it is usual to insure them generally as merchandize; but it is not understood that the insurer is liable for the risk of a clandestine exportation (*b*).

A distinction has generally been made between money, jewels, rings, trinkets, &c. which are a part of the cargo, as articles of commerce, and such as are merely *personal*, and are not meant to be disposed of as such. The jewels and ornaments which are worn by persons on board, and which are not considered as forming a part of the cargo, nor liable to contribute to a general average (*c*), would not be considered as included in a general policy on goods (*d*).

An insurance on a ship does not comprehend both ship and cargo: And therefore if a merchant insure a ship generally, and she then happen to be laden, the insurer, in case of loss, shall answer only for the ship, but not for the goods (*e*).

(*a*) *Emerig. tom. 1. p. 297.*—(*b*) 1 *Magens, 10 Vid. Da Costa v. Frith, 4 Bur. 1966. sup. 108.*—(*c*) *Vid. inf. ch. 11. § .7*—(*d*) *Affecurans merces in talem navem immittas, intelligitur affecurare pecuniam, aurum, argentum, gemmas, margaritas, et annulos, in dicta navi existentes, que omnia, appellatione mercium, in navem immittarum, comprehenduntur, licet expressa non fuissent. Santerna declarat quod si pecunia, margarite et annuli erant destinata ad vendendum, vel mercandum alias merces, tunc appellatione mercium veniunt, et in affecuratione comprehenduntur, et loco mercium habentur: Vocat dictas res merces, cum occasione earum habeat locum contributio, sicut aliarum rerum, ne in istis affecurationibus mercatorum potius appices juris quam veritas observari videantur: Et tandem, quia large comprehenduntur omnes res que sunt destinatae ad negotiandum et facit etiam quod confiscatio mercium navis extenditur etiam ad pecuniam numeratam. Roccus, not. 17.*—(*e*) *Molloy, b. 2. c. 7. § 18. Roccus n. 16.*

4. *A Description of the Voyage, with the Commencement and End of the Risk.*

Every fact and circumstance relating to the contract of insurance must be stated with the most scrupulous regard to truth. The voyage insured must therefore be truly and accurately described in the policy; namely, the time and place at which the risk is to begin, the place of the ship's departure, the place of her destination, and the time when the risk shall end, whether on goods, or on the ship. If a blank be left for the place either of the ship's departure or destination, the policy will be void for the uncertainty.—As if a ship be insured from *London* to , this blank being left to prevent an enemy's learning the place of the ship's destination. If the ship in her voyage be cast away, the insured shall not recover his loss on this policy, though there were private instructions for the ship's port of destination (a).

The voyage, with the commencement and end of the risk must be precisely described.

If a blank be left either for the place of departure or of destination, the policy will be void.

In our ordinary policies, the continuance of the risk on goods is generally expressed to be "*from the loading thereof on board the ship,*" and to continue "*until the same be discharged and safely landed,*" at the port of delivery:—The duration of the risk in a policy on *freight* is the same as in a policy upon the goods for which the freight is to be paid.—Upon the *ship*, on an outward voyage, it is sometimes from *her beginning to load*, at some particular place, or *at and from* such place; sometimes *from a particular day*. On a homeward voyage, it is generally made to commence *on the ship's arrival* at a particular place abroad, or *at and from* such place; and it continues *till she arrives* at her place of destination, "*and is there moored 24 hours in good safety.*"—Certain provisions are often added to enable the ship to touch, stay, trade, &c. at certain places out of the direct course of the voyage, without being guilty of a deviation.

How the commencement and end of the risk are usually specified.

When the insured intends a deviation from the direct or usual course of the voyage proposed, it is always pro-

(a) *Molloy*, b. 2. c. n. § 14.

vided for, and the policy adapted to it, unless fraud be intended. If this precaution be not taken, and the ship clear out for, or sail with instructions to touch at, any place out of the course of the voyage described in the policy, the contract will be void (a).

If the policy be made for a term, it must not exceed 12 months.

Sometimes privateers and vessels which are constantly employed in the coasting trade, are insured for a term. But, by the stat. 35 G III. c. 63. § 12. this term must not exceed 12 calendar months: If it exceed that time, the policy will be void.

The commencement and end of the term must be specified.

In policies for time, the commencement and end of the term should be distinctly specified. If, however, that should not be so precisely stated as it ought to be, it will be sufficient if it can be collected by construction from the policy, and the intention of the parties.

A liberty to cruise for six weeks, means six successive weeks.

If a letter of marque be insured from *Liverpool* to *Antigua*, with liberty to cruise for six weeks; but no time is fixed for the commencement of the cruise: This is not to be understood as giving a power to cruise for six weeks at different periods, but only for one uninterrupted period of six successive weeks (b).

Vid. sup. ch. 6. §. 2.

Though the description of the voyage be literally true; yet if it be calculated to induce a false conclusion, the policy will be void.

Even though the *termini* of the voyage insured be truly stated; yet, if the wording of the policy be calculated to induce in the insurer a belief that the voyage originally began at the port, where, by the policy, the risk is to begin, when in truth the ship had brought her cargo from another port; this will be a false description of the voyage, and the policy will be void.

Hodgson v. Richardson, 1 Bl. 463.

A ship takes in her cargo at L. and sails to G. An insurance is made on the goods from G. to D. 'to begin from the loading.'—The policy is void; this being a false description calculated to induce a belief that G. was the port of loading.

As where goods were insured, 'At and from *Genoa* to *Dublin*; the adventure to begin from the loading to equip for the voyage.'—The cargo, consisting of pot-ash, verdigrease, and other perishable commodities, was put on board at *Leghorn* on the 10th of *August*, and the vessel losing her convoy, put into *Genoa* on the 13th of *August*, and lay there till the 5th of *January*, near five months, and then sailed. The insurance was effected on the 20th of *January*, at which time these circumstances were known

(a) Vid. sup. 184.—(b) *R. Syers v. Bridge*, Doug. 509. sup. 197.

to the insured, but not communicated to the underwriters. The ship in her voyage met with a storm, which considerably damaged her cargo, and an action was brought for a partial loss. On the trial it appeared that, by the usage, it was material to acquaint the underwriter, whether the insurance was to begin at the commencement or the middle of the voyage.—There was a verdict, however, for the plaintiff; but which was afterwards set aside, and a new trial granted; the court being clearly of opinion, that from the terms of the policy, it must be implied that *Genoa* was the *port of loading*, which was not true; and this being a misrepresentation (a) of a material circumstance, the underwriter had a right to say that this was not his contract.

So, if a ship and goods be insured, ‘At and from the coast of *Brazil* to the *Cape of Good Hope*, beginning the adventure on the goods from the loading thereof on the coast of *Brazil*, from the 17th of *September*, and upon the ship, in the same manner.’ The goods were taken on board at the *Cape*, and the ship sailed with them to the coast of *Brazil*.—Upon this case the court determined that the policy never attached on the goods, because they were not loaded on the coast of *Brazil*; though they were the goods which the insured meant to insure, and were on board after the 17th of *September* on the coast of *Brazil*.—And that, inasmuch as the policy did not attach on the goods, it could not attach on the ship.

If there be several ports of departure, and the insurance be from any one of them to the port of destination, the policy will not protect a voyage from one of those ports to another of them, undertaken before the ship’s final departure to her port of destination.

As where freight was insured, ‘At and from *Demarara*, *Berbice*, and the *Windward* and *Leeward Islands*, to *London*.’—The ship, in *February* 1802; having discharged a cargo of slaves at *Demarara*, the master entered into a verbal agreement at that place, that she should take

Robertson and another v. French, 4 East, 130.

Goods are insured from the loading at *A*. but those intended to be insured are taken in at *B*. and then carried to *A*.—The policy never attached.

S. P. Grunt v. Paxton, sup. 260. 274.

If the insurance be from one of several ports of departure, it will not cover a voyage from one to another of them.

Sellar v. McFar, 1 New Rep. 23.

Freight is insured from *A*. *B*. and *C*. to *D*.—The ship at *A*. engages to take a cargo to *B*. and another cargo from *B*. to

(a) This is not so properly a misrepresentation, as a false description of the voyage insured.

D. Upon her departure from *A.* for *B.* she was by an accident disabled from earning freight.—

This was not a commencement of the voyage insured, and the policy never attached.

a cargo of bricks and planks from *Demarara* to *Berbice*, and another cargo from *Berbice* to *London*, for the usual freight for each voyage.—The ship having taken in her cargo from *Demarara* for *Berbice*, after breaking ground to proceed on her voyage thither, ran foul of another ship, and was so damaged that her cargo was taken out of her, and she was condemned and sold, and consequently earned no freight.—In an action on the policy it was objected on the part of the defendant, that the voyage insured was from *Demarara* to *London*, or from *Berbice* to *London*, or from any of the *Windward* or *Leeward Islands* to *London*, according to the place from which the ship might happen to take her final departure for *London*; but that, the ship never having sailed for *London*, the voyage insured had never commenced.—In answer to this it was insisted that, as the agreement was entire, the ship, as soon as she broke ground at *Demarara*, began to earn freight, and consequently, the policy attached; that the agreement had two distinct objects in view, and although the latter of these had failed, yet, as the former had commenced, there was an inception of the risk described in the policy, which might be considered as from *Demarara* to *London*, with liberty to take in a cargo at *Berbice*.—But the court determined that there was no commencement of the voyage insured, and that the policy never attached.

The port or ports of destination must be truly stated.

If the port or ports of the ship's destination be untruly set forth in the policy, the contract will be void. And this is not like the case of an intended deviation; for there can be no deviation from a voyage which was never in the contemplation of the party (a).

Wooldrige v. Boydell, Doug. 16.

A ship, insured from *A.* to *B.* appears by her papers to have had a different voyage in view, and is taken in the track to both places, before the dividing point.—This is not an intended deviation, but a different voyage, and the policy is void.

As where a ship was insured, 'At and from *Maryland* to *Falmouth*, and a bond given that certain enumerated goods should be landed in *Britain*, and all the other goods in the *British* dominions. An affidavit of the owner, and the bills of lading shewed that the ship was bound "to *Falmouth* and a market;" and there was no evidence that she was destined for *Cadiz*. She was taken in *Chesapeake Bay*, in the course from *Maryland* both to *Cadiz* and

(a) Vid. sup. ch. 6. § 2.

Falmouth, before the dividing point. Many circumstances led to a suspicion, that she was in truth, designed for neither place, but for the port of *Boston*, to supply the *American* army; but there was not sufficient direct evidence of that fact.—The court determined that the plaintiff could not recover in this cause.—Lord *Mansfield* said;—“The policy, on the face of it, purports to be a voyage to *Cadiz*. All contracts of insurance must be founded in truth, and the policies framed accordingly. When the insured intends a deviation from the direct course, it is always provided for, and the indemnification adapted to it. In all cases of deviation the *termini a quibus* and *ad quos* are certain and the same. Here the voyage was never intended for *Cadiz*.”—Mr. Justice *Buller* said;—“There cannot be a deviation from a voyage which never existed. The weight of the evidence is, that the voyage was never designed for *Cadiz*.”

But if there be several ports of destination specified in the policy, the ship may clear out and sail for one only of them. If, however, it be meant that she shall visit more than one of them, she must take them in the order in which they stand in the policy.

As where goods were insured ‘from *Liverpool* to *Palermo*, ‘*Messina*, *Naples*, and *Leghorn*, provided the *French* should ‘not be at *Leghorn*.’—Soon after the policy was effected, intelligence was received that *Leghorn* was in the hands of the *French*; and the ship took in goods and cleared out for *Naples* only. In the course of the voyage, and before she arrived at the dividing point, she was captured in the *Bay of Biscay*.—It was objected that there was no inception of the voyage insured (a), which was to *Palermo*, *Messina*, and *Naples*, in the order in which they stand in the policy; whereas here it was never intended that the ship should go to *Palermo* or *Messina*; but only to *Naples*.—But it was determined that the underwriters were liable.—The court said that this was not a question of deviation, but merely, whether the ship sailed on the voyage described in the policy; that the voyage insured meant a voyage to all or any of the places named, subject, however, to this

If there be several ports of destination, the ship may go to one only.—If to more than one, then in their order.

Marsden v. Reid, 3 East 572.

(a) Vid. *Beatson v. Haworth*, 6 T. R. 531. sup. 189.

restriction, that if the ship should go to more than one of the places, she must visit them in the order in which they stand in the policy.

Murdock v Petts,
at N. P. after
Trin. 1795.

Freight is insured
from A. to B.
but the goods, in
truth, are in-
tended to be sent
to C.:—The
policy is void.

So also, where an insurance was made on freight, 'At and from *Bordeaux* to *Virginia*.'—It appeared in evidence, that the goods were, in fact, to be carried to *St. Domingo*, and that the ship was only to call at *Norfolk* in *Virginia* for orders:—Lord *Kenyon* was of opinion, that the underwriters must suppose that the goods were consigned to *Virginia*. But the freight payable, being for the carriage of them to *St. Domingo*, it was different from the freight insured; and though the ship was to call at *Virginia*, that did not alter the case.—The plaintiff was nonsuited, and no application was made to set the nonsuit aside.

Whatever may
have been the
original inten-
tion, if the ship
in fact sail on a
voyage different
from the voyage
described, the
underwriters are
discharged.

And whatever may be the *intention* of the insured at the time the insurance is effected, if, in fact, the ship sail on a voyage different from the voyage described in the policy, the underwriters are discharged; not, perhaps, on the ground of a wilful misrepresentation, but because the ship never sailed on the voyage insured, and there is no inception of the risk insured against.

Way v. Modigliani, 2 T. R. 30.

A ship is insured
from a certain
day, from A. to
B. and before
the day she sails
on a different
voyage, the po-
licy is discharg-
ed.

Thus:—A ship was insured, 'At and from the 20th of *October* 1786, from any ports in *Newfoundland* to *Falmouth*, or her ports of discharge in *England*, with liberty to touch at *Ireland*, and any ports in the *Channel*.'—On the first of *October*, the ship left *Newfoundland*, went to the *Banks*, fished there till the 7th, sailed on that day from thence for *England*, and in that voyage was lost on the 30th of *November*.—In this case the question was, whether the policy ever attached, and whether it was not discharged, the ship never having sailed on the voyage insured.—On the part of the insured, it was contended, that though the risk of the *insured* began from the 7th, yet, as the risk of the *underwriters* was not to commence till the 20th, it could make no difference to them; and, in fact, their risk was considerably lessened, as the ship was part of her way home before the policy could attach.—But the court decided, that as the ship, instead of sailing for *England*, the voyage insured, failed

to the *Banks*, which was a different voyage, the policy was discharged.

But though there be a *previous design* to touch at a port out of the usual course of the voyage insured, and the ship be even furnished with clearances for that port; yet, if the *termini* of the intended voyage be the same as those of the voyage mentioned in the policy, this shall not be considered as a different voyage, but only as an *intended deviation* (a).

If the *termini* of the voyage be the same, a previous design to touch at a place, is only deemed an intention to deviate.

But it is proper here to mention that, in the argument of this case, that of *Stott v. Vaughan* was mentioned, which was an action on a policy on the same ship, and for the same voyage, tried before Lord *Kenyon* at *Guildhall*, in Hil. Vac. 1794, in which his Lordship nonsuited the plaintiff, on the ground that the voyage intended was not the voyage described in the policy.

Stott v. Vaughan, at N. Pr. Hil. Vac. 1794.

But if, for particular reasons, a place be mentioned in the policy, where the ship shall have liberty to touch, when in fact it is not intended that she shall touch there, but proceed directly to her port of destination, this will not avoid the policy; for the insured may shorten the voyage, and diminish the risk (b).

If the ship have liberty to touch at a place where she is not to go, the policy will be good.

As where a ship was insured from *London* to *Nantz*, with liberty to touch at *Ostend*; and she cleared out for *Ostend* only, though it was designed that she should proceed immediately to *Nantz*, with bills of lading, purporting to be made out at *Ostend*, as if her cargo had been shipped there, in order to enable the shippers to import *English* goods into *Nantz*, at *Ostend* duties, and also to save the light-house duties going down the *Channel*.—This being a constant practice, and known to all concerned in this trade, it was held to be no fraud on the underwriters; and that the policy was good.

Planché v. Fletcher, Dong. 238.

If, from a certain point in the voyage insured, there be several tracks which lead to the place of destination,

If from a point in a voyage, there be several tracks, of which the captain usually elects which he will pursue; but a particular track is prescribed to him by the insured; this

(a) *R. Kewley v. Ryan*, 2 H. Bl. 343. sup. 174. 202—

(b) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 52.

should be mentioned in the policy, otherwise it will be void.

with certain advantages and disadvantages attending each; and, at that point, the captain has usually been at liberty to elect, according to circumstances, which of the courses he would take. If the ship insured sail, *with orders from the insured, to take one particular track*, in order to touch at a port in that track, this ought to be stated in the policy, otherwise it will be void; for the insurer is entitled to the advantage of the captain's judgment in electing, at the moment he arrives at the dividing point, which of the tracks it will be best for the ship to pursue, under the then existing circumstances.

Middlewood v. Blakes, 7 T. R. 162.

Thus:—The ship *Arethusa* was insured, 'At and from London to Jamaica.'—In an action upon this policy, for a loss by capture, the defendant paid the premium into court, and resisted the demand on the ground that the policy was void, as not containing a true description of the voyage intended.—On the trial, it appeared that the ship was cleared out for *Jamaica* only, but sailed *with directions* to the captain to touch at *Cape Nicola Mole* in *St. Domingo*, in order to land some stores there, pursuant to a charter-party, and afterwards to proceed to *Jamaica*.—*St. Domingo* lies in the track to *Jamaica*, and consequently the course from *London* to *Cape Nicola Mole* and to *Jamaica* is, to a certain point, the same. From that point there are three tracks which a ship bound to *Jamaica* may take; one immediately to the southward of *St. Domingo*; another further south; and a third to the northward of that island. In this last, after the ship had passed the dividing point of the three several courses, but before she had reached the subdividing point of the continuing course to *Jamaica*, and that leading into the port of *Cape Nicola Mole*, she was captured. Of the three several tracks to *Jamaica*, from the dividing point, which the ship passed, it appeared that those to the southward of *St. Domingo* were the most usual, especially in time of peace, and were the safest navigation; that the other, to the northward, was the shortest, but more difficult, navigation, but was sometimes preferred in time of war, by those who were acquainted with it, more especially in this war,

war, because great part of the island of *St. Domingo*, including *Cape Nicola Mole*, being in possession of the *British* forces, there was less risk to be apprehended from privateers. But which of the three courses was the most advantageous to be pursued, in any particular instance, depended upon circumstances, upon which it was proper for the captain to exercise his judgment at the time. It was not pretended that the captain had in fact exercised any such judgment, in selecting the course he had taken; it being evident that he had adopted it as the most direct and proper one to be taken for the purpose of going into *Cape Nicola Mole*, whither he was then bound.—Lord *Kenyon*, before whom the cause was tried, was of opinion that the defendant was discharged under these circumstances; because, at the time when the ship was captured, she was bound to a different place from that for which she was insured; and with a view to which, the captain, under compulsion of his orders, had taken this particular track, and was not left at liberty to exercise his judgment at the dividing point, for the benefit of all concerned, as the insurers had a right to insist upon.—The jury accordingly found a verdict for the defendant, being, as they stated, unanimously of opinion, “that the
“ *concealment* (a) of the intention to go to *St. Domingo*
“ vitiated the policy.”—Upon a motion for a new trial, it was insisted on the part of the plaintiff, that where the *termini à quibus* and *ad quos* remain the same, an intended deviation shall not vitiate the policy, if the loss happen before the ship arrives at the dividing point.—The court, however, were unanimously of opinion, that the

(a) This cannot so properly be called a *concealment*, as a defective description of the voyage in the policy. A concealment is generally understood to mean the withholding of some information material for the insurer to know, but not necessary to be inserted in the policy. But the description of the voyage insured must always be contained in the policy: nor do I apprehend that any *viva voce* communication would supply a defect in that description.

plaintiff was not entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said, “ I will not now enquire whether the cases cited were, or were not, properly decided ; though, perhaps, if this were *res integra*, I might have entertained some doubts. It is sufficient that those cases have been decided, and if the opinion which I gave at the trial tended to shake their authority, I would abandon it : But it seems to me that our deciding in favour of this defendant will not disturb any of the authorities. At the trial six witnesses, who had gone many voyages to *Jamaica*, were examined on the part of the plaintiff, respecting the common course of the voyage, two of whom had never taken the northern passage, and the other four said that the southern was the most usual ; and that, at all events, the captain ought to exercise his discretion in each particular case, whether he should take the one course or the other. When this policy was subscribed, it must be taken for granted that the defendant knew what was the common course of the trade, and expected that the most expedient course would be pursued by the captain, acting on the emergency of the occasion : But in fact that discretion of the captain was taken away in this instance, and on that I formed my opinion. That was a most important fact and ought to have been communicated to the underwriters.” Mr. Justice *Aspurst* and Mr. Justice *Grose* concurred in these sentiments, both founding their opinions on the want of a full disclosure of the particular course the ship was to take, as being a circumstance that might have materially varied the risk.—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“ When the motion for a new trial was made, I was inclined to think that this case fell within the authority of the several cases cited by the plaintiff’s counsel ; and that, as the ship was taken in the course of her voyage to *Jamaica*, without stopping at *St. Domingo*, the plaintiff was entitled to recover : But, in the course of this discussion, I have changed my opinion. The principle on which those cases have been determined is, that when the ship is taken before she comes to the dividing point, the underwriters run no additional risk by the captain’s intention to deviate afterwards ; and therefore it is to be considered as if no such intention had been formed. Now if, in this case,

case, the ship had been captured before she took the northern course, I should have thought that the plaintiff would have been entitled to recover; for, in that case, the ship would have run no additional risk: But here she sailed for *Jamaica*, having a charter-party to stop at *St. Domingo*; and when she came to the dividing point, which I consider, in this case, to be that where she began to take the northern course, the ship was subjected to a risk for which the underwriters did not make themselves responsible; for, at that moment, they were entitled to have the benefit of the captain's judgment, whether he would go to the north or to the south. If it had appeared that the captain had really exercised his judgment, and had taken the northern course, as, in his opinion, the best, at that time, without being influenced by the charter-party to go to *St. Domingo*, I should have thought that a new trial ought to be granted: But I understand that he took this course, not after exercising his judgment, but because he was bound to go to *Cape Nicola Mole*; and therefore, there is no ground for sending this case to a new trial, though the jury have decided for the plaintiff on another ground which, in my opinion, is not tenable (a).

(a) The ground on which the jury decided was, that the not disclosing to the underwriters the necessity of the ships going to *Cape Nicola Mole*, was a concealment which vitiated the policy (vid. sup. 329). That ground seems to be the principal foundation of the opinions delivered by the other three judges. And indeed it would seem that the voyage intended was not the voyage insured. Vid. sup. 184. where the difference between an *intended deviation*, and a *different voyage* is shewn. In this case the defendant paid the premium into court, which plainly shews that he, or those who conducted his defence, meant to resist the plaintiff's claim, on the ground that the contract was void *ab initio*; and not on that of a *deviation*, which only discharges the insurers from the time it takes place, but does not entitle the insured to a return of premium.

5. *The Perils insured against.*

The various perils against which the insured means to be protected, must be distinctly enumerated in the policy. These are generally expressed in a form of words which has been long in use; and being dictated by the anxiety which is natural to persons who have great objects at stake, have been so multiplied, and are now so comprehensive, that they would seem to afford full protection against every accident or misfortune that can possibly happen in the course of any voyage, and for which it is meant that the insurer shall be answerable.

There are certain losses which are not comprehended in the usual words of the policy.

Vid. *supra*,
Ch. 7. §. 2.

There are, however, as we have already seen, certain losses for which it is never meant that the insurer shall be answerable, such losses being imputable to the owners of the ship, or to the master and mariners whom they employ, rather than to the perils of the sea. Such are injuries occasioned to goods by bad stowage, by being exposed to wet, by theft, and embezzlement of the master or mariners, &c.

The clause 'lost
' or not lost.'

It is not peculiar
to *English* poli-
cies.

In all our policies are inserted the words, 'lost or not lost,' by which the insurer takes upon himself, not only the risk of future loss, but also the loss, if any, that may already have happened. It is said (a), that this clause is peculiar to *English* policies. But the same thing is expressed in the *French* policies by the words, "*sur bonnes ou mauvaises nouvelles*" (b).

This clause, it is probable, was originally inserted in policies, only in cases where there was reason to fear that a loss had already happened; and in such cases the insertion of it necessarily induced the payment of a higher premium. But it has long been inserted in every policy, as a matter of course. The reason assigned by *Roccus* why this clause is thought unnecessary, and therefore not inserted in the policies of some countries, is,

(a) *Park*, 25. 5 *Bur.* 2803.—(b) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 2. p. 143. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 24.

that the fate of the voyage being unknown, will not prejudice the insurance (a).

Natural law would require that the subject matter of an insurance, like that of a sale, should exist at the time of the contract: But municipal law adds, that although the thing insured may possibly no longer exist, but that it had perished before the contract was made, yet unless the insured or his agents knew this, at the time the contract was made, the thing insured is, by a sort of fiction of law, founded on the good faith of the insured, supposed still to exist, so as to be a proper subject of insurance; and not to be considered as lost till intelligence of the loss arrives. Or, may not the insurance, in such case, be presumed to be made, as it were, *in nunc pro tunc*? May it not be presumed to have had its existence while the subject matter of it was in being, and before the time when the risk commenced? Upon this ground, and from the necessity of the case, policies, with this clause, are deemed legal contracts, and not wagers; nor can they, when rightly understood, be adduced as a precedent to authorize wager insurances.

Policies with this clause are not deemed wagers.

Though this clause is not inserted in some of the foreign policies, yet it must, in many cases, as *Roccus* supposes, be necessarily implied in the contract, otherwise it would be impossible for the merchant to be insured against risks which are already run; and against which it is sometimes indispensably necessary, for his safety, that he should be insured. For it often happens, in the cases of *middle voyages* in distant parts of the world, and in homeward voyages, that the risk is wholly, or in part, run, before any insurance can be effected.

It has been said, that insurances, *lost or not lost*, 'are certainly very hazardous;—and that the premium is 'great in proportion' (b).—Why an insurance here is more hazardous, only because it is made after the risk has been begun, or even ended, in a distant part of the world, is not

It does not make the contract more hazardous.

(a) *Roccus*, h. t. n. 175.—(b) *Park*, 25. vid. *Molloy*, b. 2. c. 7. f. 5.

very obvious. Fraud out of the case, it would seem that if there be any difference, instead of being the ground of an increase of premium, it is rather in favour of the insurer, who may reasonably be supposed to speculate better upon the occurrences of the time past, even in distant parts of the world, than upon those of the time to come. An underwriter would be better able, at least in time of war, to estimate the risk of a voyage from the coast of *Africa* to *Jamaica*, two months after it was begun, than two months before.

6. *The Powers of the insured in case of Misfortune.*

It was formerly doubted whether the insured could use his endeavours to recover the goods which had been lost, or in preserving such as had been saved, without waving his right to abandon (a). To obviate this doubt, a clause was introduced into the policy to enable the insured in case of any loss or misfortune, to employ all necessary means for the defence, safeguard, and recovery of the goods or ship insured, without prejudice to the insurance, and at the charge of the insurers, to which they bind themselves to contribute in proportion to their respective subscriptions.

7. *The Promise of the Insurers, and their receipt for the Premium.*

The next clause in the policy is that by which the insurers bind themselves to the insured for the true performance of their contract, and confess themselves paid the consideration or premium, by the insured, after the rate specified.—The premium is so called because it is paid *primo*, or before the contract shall take effect (b).

It is true that, in practice, the premium is not always paid when the policy is underwritten. Insurances, as

The receipt for the premium is only to preclude the insurers from objecting the want of consideration.

(a) *Casaregis*, Disc. 3. n. 14.—(b) *Patier*, h. t. n. 81.

has been already observed, are generally effected by the intervention of brokers, and open accounts are usually kept between them and the underwriters, in which they make themselves debtors for all premiums. Indeed it is laid down by the *French* writers, that, by the usage of trade, the insurer is to look to the agent who is employed to effect the policy, for his premium (*a*).

Sometimes the credit is given to the insured himself. If there be no express agreement, it would seem that the agent or broker is *primâ facie* liable. Perhaps in such case an action would lie against either, unless the principal has paid the premium to the agent; in which case the writers on this subject are of opinion that the agent is alone responsible (*b*).—But, whichever is liable, the insurer may recover the premium, and *indebitus assumpsit* will lie for it (*c*), notwithstanding the formal acknowledgement of the receipt of it in the policy, which is not inserted there as conclusive evidence of the actual payment of the premium, but to preclude the necessity of proving it in case of loss.

Indebitatus assumpsit will lie for the premium, notwithstanding the receipt of the insurer.

The payment or non-payment of the premium, therefore, can have no effect upon the insurance. Every insurer may insist on being paid the premium before he subscribes the policy; but having once subscribed it, and given credit for the premium, no matter to whom, he shall not afterwards be at liberty, when a loss has happened, to object the want of consideration for his promise.

The non-payment of the premium cannot affect the validity of the contract.

There is no fixed rule to ascertain the rate of the premium in any case. This must always depend on the agreement of the parties; and therefore the premium, whatever it may be, is always reputed to be just and fair, if there be no fraud or surprize on either side. If the nature of the risk be fairly and fully declared by the insured, the insurer can never dispute the payment of a loss, on the ground of the smallness of the premium (*d*).

(*a*) *Valin*, art. 3. h. t. p. 32. *Pothier*, h. t. n. 98. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 149.—(*b*) *Vid. Savary*, liv. 3. c. 2. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 148.—(*c*) *R. Jackson v. Colegrave*, Carth. 338.—(*d*) *Vid. Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 69.

8. *The common Memorandum.*

The common memorandum next follows, for the purpose of confining insurances to their only proper object, namely, an indemnity against real and important losses arising from the perils of the sea, and to obviate all subjects of litigation about trivial losses, and losses arising from the perishable quality of the goods insured. For this purpose, it is now, by this memorandum, constantly stipulated in all our policies, that in the case of certain enumerated articles, of a quality peculiarly perishable, the insurer shall not be answerable for any partial loss whatever; that, in the case of certain others, liable to partial injuries, but less difficult to be preserved at sea, he shall only be liable for partial losses above five *per cent.*; and that, as to all other goods, and also the ship and freight, he shall only be liable for partial losses above three *per cent.* But there is an exception in this memorandum of all losses, however small, of the nature of *general average*; or where the ship is stranded: But this last exception is only found in the policies of private underwriters (a).

9. *The Date and Subscription.*

Sum insured inserted.

The sum insured is generally placed in the subscription after the signature, in the underwriter's hand-writing, and in words at length, not in figures, which are easily altered or changed. But it is not indispensably necessary that the sum shall be specified in the policy: An insurer may bind himself to pay the value of the effects insured, or a given proportion of it, without fixing that value in the policy (b.) But this is not usual in practice.

Date.

A policy of insurance, like every other contract in writing, should have a date. There are few instruments to which the true date is more necessary. This date,

(a) Vid. sup. c. 7. f. 3. where the subject of this memorandum is fully considered.—(b) Vid. *Patbier*, h. t. n. 75. *Emerig.* tom. i. p. 57.

when compared with the dates of facts connected with the transaction, serves to discover whether there be reason to suspect any fraudulent concealment, at the time of any of the subscriptions to the policy.

The date is not inserted in the body of the policy; for, as each subscription to a policy makes a distinct contract, each underwriter sets down the day, month, and year of his own subscription.

Each underwriter puts his own date.

This practice is preferable to that which prevails in *France*, where the first underwriter puts a date after his signature, and the rest subscribe without adding any date; at length the notary or broker closes the policy with the date of the first subscription. This practice, as *Emerigon* justly observes, must afford frequent temptations to fraud; and he laments, that though great endeavours had been used to introduce the *English* practice, this had been without effect (a).

Practice in *France*.

10. *The Stamp.*

The last requisite of the policy is that it be duly stamped.—Upon the subject of the stamp duties imposed on this contract, it will be only necessary to insert here the substance of the stat. 35 G. 3. c. 62. and this will be done the more fully, because it contains many regulations with which it behoves every person concerned in the business of marine insurances to be well acquainted.

This act, which is declared not to extend to insurances on lives, or against losses by fire (b), repeals all former stamp duties on marine insurances (c), and imposes ‘On every policy of insurance upon any ship, goods, or merchandizes, or upon other property, the following duties, viz.—Where the sum insured amounts to 100l. a duty of 2s. 6d. and so progressively for every sum of

S. 1. A stamp of 2s. 6d. for every 100l. and 2s. 6d. for every fractional part of 100l.

(a) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 47.——(b) Sect 2.——

(c) Sect. 24.

Where the premium does not exceed 10s. per cent. only 1s. 3d. per cent.

§. 4. In such case, the stamp may be 2s. 6d. for every 200l.

§. 10. Where the sum insured on homeward voyages exceeds the interest of the insured by 1000l. and the stamp is 1s. 3d. per cent. or 500l. where it is 2s. 6d. the excess of duty may be allowed.

§. 11. Every contract shall be deemed a policy which shews the premium, risk, sum insured, and names of insurers.

§. 12. No policy to be for a longer term than 12 months.

‘ 100l. insured: And where the sum insured is less than
‘ 100l. the like duty of 2s. 6d.: And where it exceeds
‘ 100l. or any progressive sums of 100l. each, by a frac-
‘ tional part of 100l. a like duty of 2s. 6d. for every
‘ such fractional part: And where the premium *bonâ fide*
‘ paid, or contracted for, shall not exceed the rate of 10s.
‘ and the sum insured amounts to 100l. a duty of 1s. 3d.
‘ and so progressively for every 100l. and the fractional
‘ part of every 100l. insured (a).

‘ Provided that where the premium shall not exceed 10s.
‘ per cent. and the sum insured amounts to 200l. or up-
‘ wards, a stamp of 2s. 6d. may be used for every 200l.
‘ insured, instead of stamps of 1s. 3d. for every 100l.’

‘ Provided that where an insurance is made on goods
‘ on board a ship specifically named on a homeward
‘ voyage, and the sum insured is found to exceed the in-
‘ terest by 1000l. or upwards, where the duty is 1s. 3d.
‘ per cent. or 500l. where it is 2s. 6d. and upon oath
‘ of the true value of the interest, and on production
‘ of the policy within a month after landing the goods in
‘ Great Britain, and on proof of the return of premium
‘ by the several underwriters, on account of such short
‘ interest, the commissioners may allow for the excess of
‘ duty, provided the policy be delivered to the commis-
‘ sioners to be cancelled, and the interest insured be not
‘ valued from the policy.’

‘ And every contract for any such insurance shall be
‘ printed or written, and shall be deemed a *policy of insur-*
‘ *ance*, in which the premium, the risk insured against,
‘ the names of the underwriters, and the sums insured,
‘ shall be specified, in default whereof, every such insu-
‘ rance shall be void.’

‘ And no policy upon any ship, or share therein, shall
‘ be made for any certain term longer than 12 calendar
‘ months; and every policy for a longer term shall be
‘ void.’

(a) By 41 G. III. c. 10. § 1. all these duties are doubled. Vid. inf. 340.

‘ Provided

‘ Provided that any lawful alteration in the terms of
 ‘ the policy may be made after it has been underwritten,
 ‘ and that no additional stamp be required by reason of
 ‘ such alteration; so that it be made before notice of the
 ‘ determination of the risk originally insured; that the
 ‘ original premium exceed 10s. *per cent.*; that the pro-
 ‘ perty of the thing insured remain the same; that the
 ‘ alteration shall not prolong the term insured beyond
 ‘ the period allowed; and that no additional sum shall be
 ‘ insured by such alteration.’

§. 13. Any al-
 teration may be
 made in the po-
 licy, before no-
 tice of the end
 of the risk, if
 the premium
 exceed 10s. *per*
cent.

‘ And no such insurance, made in *Great Britain*, shall be
 ‘ given in evidence, or shall be good or available in law,
 ‘ unless stamped with the stamp to denote the rate of
 ‘ duty, or some higher duty, contained in this act; and
 ‘ it shall not be lawful to stamp any policy, after the in-
 ‘ surance shall be printed or written, under any pretence
 ‘ whatsoever.’

§. 14. No insu-
 rance shall be
 available in law,
 unless duly
 stamped,—and
 no policy to be
 stamped after
 written or
 printed.

‘ And every person who shall make or effect, or pro-
 ‘ cure to be made or effected, any such insurance, or shall
 ‘ pay, or agree to pay, any premium thereon, or shall
 ‘ enter into any contract for such insurance, unless it be
 ‘ printed or written, being first duly stamped with the proper
 ‘ stamp, or one of higher value, shall forfeit 500l.; and
 ‘ all brokers, agents, &c. negotiating such insurance, or
 ‘ printing or writing any agreement for such insurance
 ‘ before the same be duly stamped, shall also forfeit 500l.’

§. 15. Any per-
 son effecting
 an insurance,
 or paying any
 premium, or
 contracting for
 an insurance,
 unless duly
 stamped, shall
 forfeit 500l.

Brokers nego-
 tiating such in-
 surances to for-
 feit 500l.

‘ And it shall not be lawful for any broker, &c. negotiat-
 ‘ ing such insurance, to charge for brokerage, &c. or for
 ‘ any premium paid thereon, unless the same be printed or
 ‘ written and duly stamped; and every sum so paid shall
 ‘ be deemed to be paid without consideration.’

§. 16. And their
 brokerage. &

‘ And any insurer or underwriter, who shall receive
 ‘ any premium, or pay any loss, upon such insurance, unless
 ‘ it be written or printed and duly stamped; or any person
 ‘ who shall be concerned in any fraudulent device to evade
 ‘ the duties imposed by this act, shall forfeit for every
 ‘ offence 500l.’

§. 17. Any per-
 son insuring
 without a stamp,
 or concerned in
 any fraud to
 evade the stamp
 duties, to forfeit
 500l.

‘ But it being customary for the *London Assurance*, and
 ‘ *Royal Exchange Assurance* Companies to prepare a label,
 ‘ containing the heads of the insurance proposed, signed by

§. 18. But the
 two insurance
 companies may
 make agree-
 ments for insu-
 rances on the

stamped labels,
provided the
policies be made
out in 3 days
after.

‘ the insured, from which the policies are afterwards made;
‘ and it would be inconvenient to require the policies in
‘ all cases to be immediately made out, it is provided,
‘ that the officers of those corporations shall not be subject
‘ to any of the above penalties for making any agreement to
‘ insure by such unstamped label, provided the day on
‘ which it was made be truly expressed in words at length,
‘ and a policy be made out in pursuance of the agreement,
‘ and according to one of the forms annexed to this
‘ act (a), and duly executed and stamped within three
‘ office days from the date of the agreement.’

Further regula-
tions.

This act also contains regulations for the providing
paper, &c. at the public charge, and the distributing
of stamped policies, where the sum insured is not under
10,000l.—and for stamping paper, &c. brought to the
office;—for appointing an office in *London* near the *Royal
Exchange*, for the distribution of policies properly stamped;
directing the mode of taking bonds from persons to whom
policies are delivered on credit, and keeping proper ac-
counts with them; with directions for granting new
policies in lieu of policies damaged; or where, by mis-
take, a wrong stamp has been used, or subscriptions have
not been obtained to the amount of the stamp, on pro-
ducing another policy made out for the same risk, pro-
vided it be brought to be cancelled in ten office days after
the date of the subscription, or (if on an outward voyage)
after the ship has sailed.

By the 41 G.
III. c. 10. these
duties are
doubled.

By the stat. 41 G. III. c. 10. § 1. all the duties im-
posed by the above act are doubled.

By 42 G. III.
c. 99. where
the premium
does not exceed
20s. per cent.
the duties shall
be the same as
are imposed by
the above acts;
where it does not
exceed 10s. per
cent.

By stat. 42 G. III. c. 99. ‘ Where the premium shall
‘ not exceed the rate of 20s. per cent., one-half of the duty
‘ of 2s. 6d. imposed by the stat. 35 G. III. c. 63. and
‘ one-half of the additional duty of 2s. 6d. imposed
‘ by the stat. 41 G. III. c. 10. shall cease and deter-
‘ mine; and there shall be payable upon every insu-
‘ rance, where the premium shall not exceed the rate
‘ of 20s. per cent. the like duties only, as are by those two

(a) Vid. Appendix, No. I. II. III.

‘acts imposed upon insurances where the premium shall not exceed the rate of 10s. *per cent.* on the sum insured.’—These duties seem to be inserted without variation in the schedule, which will be found in that extraordinary composition, the stat. 44 G. III. c. 98.

In the case of *Marsden v. Reid* (a), the court determined, that if a separate slip of paper, containing the names of the underwriters, in the order in which they had been applied to, and had agreed to underwrite the policy (which was different from that in which their names appeared on the policy), be produced to shew that the person who stands first in this list was the person to whom a representation was made; this cannot be received in evidence unless it be stamped, because it has the effect of shewing that the contract entered into was different from that which appeared on the face of the policy.—The report of this case does not, however, state what stamp this slip of paper required. It cannot be considered either as another policy, for it possesses none of the requisites of a policy; nor as a memorandum of an agreement; for it has no resemblance to an agreement. And the object of the act seems to be, to secure the payment of the duty, as thereby regulated, and no more.

The evidence to prove who was the first underwriter to whom a representation was made, if in writing, ought to be stamped.

A memorandum on the policy extending the time of sailing beyond that which was originally limited by the policy, being made before notice of the determination of the risk, does not require a new stamp; this being within the proviso contained in the 13th section of the stat. 35 G. III. c. 63.

A memorandum extending the time of sailing requires no new stamp.

Thus:—An insurance was made on the 5th of February 1800, from the *Havannah* to *Nassau* in *New Providence*, upon goods, and also ‘upon ship or ships sailing between the 1st of October 1799, and the 1st of June 1800 inclusive.’ Afterwards, by a memorandum, written upon the policy on the 11th of June 1800, it was agreed to extend the time of sailing to the 1st of August 1800.

Kensington v. Inglis, 8 *East*, 273.

(a) 3 *East* 572. inf. ch. 10. § 1. Vid. *Rogers v. M'Carthy*, 3 *Esp. Rep.* 106.

—The ship sailed on the 18th of *July* 1800, and was lost.

—It was objected that this memorandum so far varied the contract stated in the policy, as to require a new stamp, without which it could not be given in evidence.—But the court held that this memorandum required no new stamp, being within the proviso of the 13th section of the act (a).

Hill v. Patten,
8 East, 373.

But a policy on
“ship and out-
fit” cannot, by
consent, be al-
tered to “ship
and goods” with-
out a new stamp.

But where an insurance was made in *September* 1804, on ‘*ship and out-fit*,’ in a voyage upon the southern whale fishery, out and home; and in *March* 1805, long after the sailing of the ship, and after the risk commenced, in consequence of some misunderstanding as to the broker’s instructions, the underwriters, upon application made to them by the insured, agreed to alter the policy, by indorsing on it a memorandum in these words: ‘It is hereby agreed that the interest on this policy shall be on *ship and goods*, instead of *ship and out-fit*, as originally declared.’—The ship was lost, and, in an action on the policy, it was determined that the out-fit originally insured, being essentially different from *goods*, to which the policy was by the memorandum made to apply, the case did not come within the above exception; and that therefore the policy, after the alteration, required a new stamp. For though that clause enables the parties to make any alteration in the *terms or conditions* of a policy, it requires that the *thing insured* shall remain the property of the same person. But here the thing insured could not remain the property of the same person, because, by the memorandum, it was changed for something else.—But the court held that it was not to be inferred from hence, that where there is a succession of cargoes, on board the same ship, in the course of the same voyage, these may not be the subject matter of the same insurance under the denomination of *goods*: For though the parts of which it consists are not co-existing, but successive, and in kind and quality wholly dissimilar; yet the adventure continues the same, and the subject matter retains its original denomination of *goods*.

But successive
cargoes on board
the same ship,
in the same ad-
venture, may be
covered by the
same policy.

Sect. IV.

When a policy may be altered or corrected.

THOUGH a policy of insurance, not being under seal, is but a simple contract, yet, it is always looked upon as an instrument of great solemnity, being the only evidence of a contract of the utmost importance to the parties interested. The general form of the policy, which has been for many ages nearly the same, is never altered, but with the utmost caution, and upon very great consideration (a); and therefore, when once a policy has been filled up and underwritten, no alteration can be made in it, but by the consent of all parties, or by the authority of a court of equity, or perhaps a court of law; and then only in a case where something has, by mistake or fraud, been inserted or omitted, contrary to the manifest intention and the real agreement of the parties. And a very clear case of this sort must be made out by unquestionable testimony to warrant such alteration.

A policy is never altered but by consent of parties, or the authority of the court.

But, the following cases will shew, that where such a case is made out, the court will direct the alteration to be made, even after a loss has happened.

In a clear case, the court will direct the alteration.

An insurance was made on a ship, 'At and from London to Ostend, from thence to Rotterdam, and from thence to the Canaries; warranted an (Ostend ship).'—The ship was taken. The insured brought his bill to have the policy rectified, according to the intention of the parties; by stating the voyage from Ostend only, and not from London.—The evidence in support of the plaintiff's case appearing to be contradictory, his bill was dismissed. Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, in delivering his opinion, said,—“No doubt but this court has jurisdiction to relieve, in respect to a plain mistake in contracts, if reduced into writing contrary to the intent of the parties. And though the plaintiff comes to do this in a very

Henkle v. Roy. Ex. Aff. 1 Ves. 317.

This may be done, even after a loss; but then it must clearly appear to have been contrary to the intent, and a proper case for the court to interpose.

(b) Vid. 1 Skin. 54.

harsh case; namely, upon a policy, after a loss has happened, to vary the contract so as to turn the loss on that insurer, who otherwise, it is admitted, cannot be charged; yet if the case be so strong as to require it, the court ought to do it. The *first* question is, whether it sufficiently appears to the court, that this policy, which is a contract in writing, has been framed contrary to the intent and real agreement of the parties; and *secondly*, supposing it so, whether this be such a case, under the circumstances of it, and the nature of the trade, as that the court ought to interpose and relieve."

Mottoux v. Lond. Assur. 1 Atk. 545.

Instructions were given to make the risk commence from the ship's arrival at A. and it was made from the ship's departure from A. A court of equity ordered it to be altered.

So, where a policy stated that the adventure was to commence from the *departure* of the ship *Eyles* from *Fort St. George* to *London*;—upon a bill filed by the insured it appeared that the owner had directed an insurance to be made, "to commence from the ship's *arrival* at *Fort St. George*;" that a label, agreeably to these instructions, had been entered in a book, and signed by the agent and two of the directors of the *London Assurance*, and that, by mistake, the policy was made out different from the label. The loss happened *after* the ship's arrival at *Fort St. George*.—Lord Chancellor *Hardwicke* determined that the label which contained the names of the ship and of the master, the premium, and a description of the voyage, was a memorandum of the agreement, in which the material parts of the policy were inserted; that though the policy was ambiguous, yet the label made it clear; and as it was only the mistake of the clerk, it ought to be rectified according to the label.

When an underwriter agrees to alter the policy in order to correct a mistake, he shall not afterwards object that he ought to have had an increase of premium.

Thus:—An agent had instructions to procure an insurance on goods on board the *Mary* galley, Captain *Hill*.—The agent carried the letter to one *Stubbs*, a broker, and he, by mistake, made the insurance on the ship *Mary*, Captain *Hazlewood*. The *Mary* galley was lost; and then *Stubbs* applied to the underwriters to con-

sent

Bates v. Graham, Salk. 444.

An underwriter agrees to alter a policy: He shall not afterwards be permitted to object

sent to alter the policy; to which they agreed, and the mistake was rectified.—It was objected at the trial, that, on account of the alteration, the insurers should have had an increase of *premium*, the ship *Mary* being a stouter vessel than the *Mary* galley; but, Lord C. J. *Holt* over-ruled this objection, and held that the mistake might be set right, and that *Stubbs* was a good witness: And he cited a case which happened in the time of Lord C. J. *Pemberton*, where an insurance was made from *Archangel* to the *Downs*, and from thence to *Leghorn*; but there was a parol agreement at the same time, that the policy should not commence till the ship came to such a place; and it was held the parol agreement should avoid the writing.

that he ought to have had an increase of *premium*.

Even a parol agreement shall control the written policy.

Yet it is a general rule that the policy alone shall be conclusive evidence of the contract; and that no parol evidence shall be received to vary the terms of it. And it has been determined that a parol agreement, that the risk should begin at a place different from that specified in the policy cannot be received in evidence (a).

(a) *R. Kaines v. Knightley*, *Skin.* 454. inf. ch. 16. § 5.

CHAP. IX.

Of Warranties.

HAVING, in the foregoing chapter, shewn the nature and properties of the common policy, we now proceed, according to the distribution of our subject, to treat of those occasional stipulations and agreements by which the general tenor of the contract, as expressed in the common policy, is varied, qualified, or regulated. Of these the most important are warranties, which we will now consider under the following heads, viz.

- I. *Of the Nature and different Kinds of Warranties; and the Effect of the Breach of a Warranty;*
- II. *How an Express Warranty shall be made;*
- III. *Of the Warranty that the Ship was safe on a given Day;*
- IV. *Of the Warranty that she shall sail by a given Day;*
- V. *Of the Warranty that she shall sail with Convoy;*
- VI. *Of the Warranty of Neutrality.*

SECT. I.

Of the Nature and different Kinds of Warranties; and the Effect of the Breach of a Warranty.

Warranty,
what.

Affirmative and
promissory.

A warranty is a stipulation or agreement on the part of the insured, in nature of a condition precedent.—It may be either *affirmative*, as where the insured undertakes for the truth of some positive allegation; as, that the thing insured is neutral property, that the ship is of such a force, that she sailed, or was well, on such a day, &c.; Or, it may be *promissory*; as, where the insured undertakes to perform some executory stipulation; as that the

ship

ship shall sail on or before a given day; that she shall depart with convoy; that she shall be manned with such a complement of men, &c.

Express or implied.

Warranties are either *express* or *implied*. An *express* warranty is a particular stipulation introduced into the written contract by the agreement of the parties; as that the thing insured is neutral property, that the ship shall sail by a given day, that she shall depart with convoy, &c. An *implied* warranty is that which necessarily results from the nature of the contract; as that the ship shall be seaworthy when she sails on the voyage insured; that she shall be navigated with reasonable skill and care, that the voyage is lawful, and shall be performed according to law, and in the usual course, and without wilful deviation, &c. We will confine ourselves in the present chapter to the subject of *express* warranties.

A warranty, like every other part of the contract, is to be construed according to the understanding of merchants, and does not bind the insured beyond the commercial import of the words.

Confirmed according to its commercial import.

Thus:—There was a warranty that a ship should have 20 guns; and it appeared that she had, in truth, 22 guns, but only 25 men; which number is far short of the necessary complement for 20 guns. It was objected that this warranty implied a competent number of men to work 20 guns, in case the ship should be attacked.—But it was determined that the warranty did not include any thing not necessarily implied in it. Lord *Mansfield* said,—“If a warranty be meant to mislead, it is a fraud, as much as a false representation. In this case there is no ground to impute fraud, and therefore the plaintiff is entitled to recover.”

Hyde v. Bruner,
B. R. Hil.
23 G. III. MS.

A warranty being in the nature of a condition precedent, and therefore to be performed by the insured before he can demand performance of the contract on the part of the insurer, it is quite immaterial for what purpose, or with what view, it is made; or whether the insured had any view at all in making it: But, being once inserted in the policy, it becomes a binding condition on the insured; and unless he can shew that it has been literally fulfilled, he can derive no benefit from the policy. The very meaning

How performed.

meaning of a warranty is, to preclude all question whether it has been substantially complied with or not. If it be affirmative, it must be literally true; if promissory, it must be strictly performed.

A breach of it avoids the contract *ab initio*.

The breach of a warranty, therefore, consists either in the falsehood of an affirmative, or the non-performance of an executory, stipulation. In either case, the contract is void *ab initio*, the warranty being a condition precedent: And whether the thing warranted was material or not; whether the breach of it proceeded from fraud, negligence, misinformation, or any other cause, the consequence is the same. The warranty makes the contract hypothetical; that is, it shall be binding, *if* the warranty be complied with. With respect to the compliance with warranties, there is no latitude, no equity; the only question is, has the thing warranted taken place or not. If not, the insurer is not answerable for any loss, even though it did not happen in consequence of the breach of the warranty (a).

D. Hahn v. Hartley, 1 T. R. 343.

A ship is warranted to sail on her *outward voyage*, with 50 hands; but, in fact, she sails with only 46:—This avoids a policy on her *middle voyage*, though during that voyage she has 52 hands.

Thus;—In June 1779 a ship and cargo, were insured ‘At and from *Africa* to her port or ports of discharge in ‘the *West Indies*,’ and in the margin of the policy was written this warranty;—“Sailed from *Liverpool* with 14 “six ponnders, swivels, small-arms, and 50 hands or “upwards, copper-sheathed.”—The ship had sailed from *Liverpool* in *October* 1778, having then only 46 hands on board, and arrived in *Beaumaris* in six hours after. She there took in six hands more, and, from that time till the capture, had 52 on board. It was found that in her voyage from *Liverpool* to *Beaumaris* she was equally safe as if she had had 50 hands on board.—The ship being captured, and the plaintiff, not knowing that she had sailed from *Liverpool* with only 46 hands on board, paid his subscription: But, on learning that fact, he brought an action against the insured to recover back the money thus paid in his own wrong.—It was contended on the part of the defendant, that this representation had no relation to the voyage insured, which was from

(a) Vid. *Hibbert v. Pigou*, inf.

Africa to the *West Indies*; but only a representation of the state of the ship at *Liverpool*, before she sailed from thence, and was antecedent to the voyage insured.—But the court determined that this was a warranty, and a condition that the ship had sailed from *Liverpool* with a certain number of men; and this not being true, the policy was void.—This judgment was afterwards affirmed in the *Exchequer Chamber*.

It is also immaterial to what cause the non-compliance is attributable: For if it be not in fact complied with, though, perhaps, for the best reasons, the policy is void. The condition has not been performed, or the contingency has not happened, on which the contract was made; and the underwriter has a right to say that there is no contract. Therefore, if a ship be warranted to sail on or before a given day, and she be prevented, by any accident, as the sudden want of repair, the appearance of an enemy, &c. from sailing till the next day; though it may be right, in such case, not to sail on the day, yet the warranty is not complied with, and there is an end of the policy (a).

To whatever cause the non-compliance is attributable, the contract is void.

Sect. II.

How an express Warranty shall be made.

AN express warranty, being of the nature of a condition precedent, our courts have holden that it must appear on the face of the policy, in order that there may be indisputable and unequivocal evidence of a stipulation, the non-compliance with which will have the effect of avoiding the contract. Instructions in writing for effecting the policy, therefore, unless inserted in the instrument itself, do not amount to a warranty (b).

It must appear on the face of the policy.

As, where a written paper of instructions, relating to the force of the ship, with these words, ‘12 guns and 20 men,’ was wrapped up in the policy, when brought to the

Pawson v. Barnevelt, at N. Y. *Doug.* 12, n.

(a) Per Lord Mansfield in *Bond v. Nutt*, *Cowp.* 606, 7. inf.—

(b) Per Cur. in *Pawson v. Watson*, *Cowp.* 790. inf. c. 10. § 2. under.

A paper wrapped up in the policy will not make a warranty.

Bize v. Fletcher, at N. P. Doug. 13.

Even a paper wafered to the policy will not make a warranty.

But it will be sufficient if it be written in the margin.

Yet if a policy refer to printed proposals, they will be considered as a part of the policy, even though they make a condition precedent.

underwriters to be subscribed; and evidence was offered to prove that a written memorandum inclosed in the policy, was always, among merchants, considered as a part of the policy.—Lord *Mansfield* held that, whether this was or was not a part of the policy, was a question of law, and therefore such evidence could not be received; and that a written paper, by being folded up in the policy, did not become a warranty.

So where a slip of paper, describing the state of the ship, the particulars of the voyage, &c. was wafered to the policy, at the time of subscribing:—Even this, Lord *Mansfield* held not to be a warranty, or to be considered as a part of the policy, but only as a representation.

But though it is essential to a warranty, that it appear on the face of the policy itself; yet it need not be written in the body of the policy: If it be written in the margin, either in the usual way (a), or transversely (b), it will be a good warranty, it being a part of the written contract when signed.

Yet, in the case of a policy against loss by fire, it has been holden that the printed proposals of the insurance company, requiring the insured, in case of loss, to procure a certificate from the minister, churchwardens, and other parishioners of the reality of the loss and the fairness of the claim, are to be considered as part of the policy; and that the procuring such a certificate is a condition precedent to the right of the insured to recover, and cannot be dispensed with, even though the minister and churchwardens wrongfully refuse to grant it (c).

SECT. III.

Of the Warranty that the Ship was safe on a given Day.

If the ship was safe at any part of the day specified, the warranty is complied with.

TO preclude all suspicion of concealment as to the state of the thing insured, the insured sometimes warrants that

(a) *R. Bean v. Stupart*, Doug. 115.—(b) Per Lord *Mansfield* at N. P. in *Kenyon v. Berton*, Doug. 12. n.—(c) *R. Routledge v. Burrell*, 1 H. Bl. 254. *Oldman v. Bewick*, 2 H. Bl. 577, n. *Wood v. Worsley*, 2 H. Bl. 574. 6 T. R. 701. inf. B. 4. ch. 5.

the ship or goods insured were safe on a given day: Upon the construction of this warranty, it has been holden that if the thing insured was safe at any part of the day specified, the warranty is complied with; even though it appear that a loss happened on the day, and before the policy was underwritten.

As where a policy was effected on goods, "*lost or not lost*;"—and, at the foot of the policy these words were written, "*Warranted well this 9th day of December 1784.*"

Blackhurst v. Caskell, 3 T. R. 360.

—It appeared that the policy was underwritten between the hours of one and three in the afternoon of that day; that the ship was well at six o'clock in the morning; but was lost at eight o'clock the same morning.—The court held clearly that the warranty was sufficiently complied with, if the ship was well at any time that day; for though it is a matter of indifference whether the thing warranted be or be not material, yet it must be literally complied with, and being so complied with, that is sufficient; that there was good reason for inserting these words, because they protected the underwriter from any loss *before that day*, to which the words *lost or not lost* would otherwise have subjected him; and thus, too, the words *lost or not lost* have also their operation.

SECT. IV.

Of the Warranty that the Ship would sail by a given day.

THE time of sailing in most voyages is so material, that, in many policies, there is a warranty to sail on or before a certain day. Independently of the effect which a difference of seasons may have upon the risk, and of the necessity there is that the voyage shall end in a reasonable time, it is of great importance to the insurer, where the policy is '*at and from*' a place, that there be a day fixed for the ship's departure, in order that the duration of the risk, *at the place*, may be ascertained.—This, like every other warranty, must be strictly performed; and the following decision will shew that nothing, not even a detention by the authority of government, will excuse the non-performance of it (a).

When there is a warranty to sail by a given day, nothing will excuse the non-compliance with it.

(a) *Vid. Rocas*, n. 38.

*Hove v. Whit-
more, Cowp. 784.*

Even an embar-
go by a British
governor will
not excuse it.

A ship was insured, 'At and from *Jamaica* to *London*, warranted to sail on or before the 26th of July 1776.'—In an action on the policy, the declaration stated that the ship was ready to sail, and would have sailed, on the 25th of July, if she had not been restrained by the order of the governor of *Jamaica*, and detained beyond the day; that she afterwards sailed and was captured. There was a verdict for the plaintiff.—Upon a motion to set aside this verdict, and enter a nonsuit, it was contended on the part of the plaintiff that the embargo by which the ship was prevented from sailing on the day mentioned in the warranty, came expressly within the meaning of the usual clause against the detention of rulers and princes, and therefore excused the delay.—But the court determined that the loss could, in no respect, be connected with the embargo. That the warranty was *positive and express*, that the ship should depart on or before the day appointed, and therefore must be complied with.

Observations on
this case.

The detention, in this case, was one of the perils insured against; and for which, while it lasted, the insured might have abandoned. But instead of that, the ship sails after the day stipulated by the warranty, and being taken, the insured claims as for a loss by *capture*, and alleges the detention by way of excuse for the non-compliance with the warranty. The court, in deciding that, by reason of this non-compliance, the plaintiff could not recover for a loss by capture, in effect decided that an irresistible force, though one of the perils insured against, would not excuse the non-compliance with the warranty, so as to enable the insured to recover for a loss which happened after the day.

A warranty to
sail *after* a cer-
tain day must be
observed with
the same strict-
ness.

It may, in some cases, vary the risk materially, that the voyage should not be commenced till after a certain season be past. Sometimes, therefore, the warranty is to sail *after* a certain day, and, before another day; and the following case will shew, that this must be complied with as strictly as the warranty, to sail *on or before* a given day.

Freder v. Grant,
at N. P. East.
1779. Park 326.

Goods were insured on board a *French* ship, 'At and from *Martinico* to *Havre de Grace*, with liberty to touch at *Guadeloupe*, warranted to sail *after* the 12th of January,

‘and on or before the first of *August*, 1778.’—At the time the insurance was effected, it was not known whether the ship would load at *Martinico* or *Guadaloupe*, the insured having goods to come from both places, the policy was therefore intended to cover the risk from both or either.—The ship sailed from *Martinico* the 6th of *November* for *Guadaloupe*, where she took in her whole loading, without returning to *Martinico*, as she intended to have done had she not got a complete cargo at *Guadaloupe*.—From thence she sailed for *Haute de Grace* on the 26th of *June* 1778, and was captured on the 3d of *September*.—In an action to recover for this loss, it was objected by the defendant, that, according to the words of the policy, the voyage was to commence from *Martinico*, and not from *Guadaloupe*, and that the warranty of the time of sailing was not complied with, the ship having sailed from *Martinico* before the 12th of *January* 1778, to wit, on the 6th of *November* 1777.—Mr. Justice *Buller*, who tried the cause, was of this opinion, and the jury, under his direction, found a verdict for the defendant.

But if a ship, warranted to sail on or before a given day, sail before the day, from the port of loading in one of the *West India* islands, with all her cargo and clearances on board, to the usual place of rendezvous, at another part of the same island, merely for the sake of joining convoy: This is a compliance with the warranty, though the ship be detained at the place of rendezvous beyond the day. The reason is, that when a ship clears out from her port of loading, with a complete cargo, and has no other object in view but the safest mode of sailing to her port of delivery, her voyage must be said to commence from her departure from that port. If, indeed, her cargo was not complete, at the time she sailed, it would not have been a commencement of the voyage. This will be found decided upon great consideration in the following case.

An insurance was made on a ship, lost or not lost; ‘At and from *Jamaica* to *London*; warranted to have sailed on or before the first of *August* 1776.’—The ship was completely laden at *St. Anne’s* in *Jamaica*, and sailed from thence on the 26th of *July* for *Bluefields*, in order to join the convoy there, that being the general rendezvous for

A ship warranted to sail *Martinico* a certain day, intended to return *Martinico*; finding a cargo at *Guadaloupe*, she proceeds on voyage:—is a breach of the warranty.

If the ship sails before the day, to join convoy, this shall be a compliance with the warranty, though she be detained at the place of rendezvous beyond the day.

Rand v. N. Comp. 601.

A ship is warranted to sail from *Jamaica* to *London*, before a day, and

the day she sails to *Bluefields*, to join convoy, and is there stopped by an embargo till after the day. Though *Bluefields* is out of her course, yet, as she went thither only for convoy, this is a sailing on her voyage before the 1st of *August*.

convoy on the *Jamaica* station, and where a convoy then lay expecting to sail for *England* every day: But the greater part of the way from *St. Anne's* to *Bluefields* is out of the course from thence to *England*. On the ship's arrival at *Bluefields*, she was stopped by an embargo laid on all vessels at *Jamaica*, and detained there till the 6th of *August*, when she sailed, and was afterwards taken.— Upon these facts the jury found a verdict for the defendant, under the direction of Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause.— Upon a motion for a new trial, two points were made for the defendant.— 1st. That the departure from *St. Anne's* was not a departure from *Jamaica*. 2dly. That if it was, the going to *Bluefields*, though for the purpose of convoy only, was a deviation, being out of the course of the voyage.— Lord *Mansfield* at first seemed desirous to know whether there were any authorities to shew that going out of the course of the voyage for the purpose of convoy only, was no deviation, and desired that a search might be made for such authorities. None, however, were found. At length, after great consideration, the court were unanimously of opinion in favour of the plaintiff on both points. They held, that though *Bluefields* was out of the course from *St. Anne's* to *England*, yet, as the ship went there only to join convoy, this was a sailing before the 1st of *August*, and not a deviation.— Lord *Mansfield*, after acknowledging that his direction to the jury was wrong, said;—“The port from whence the ship was to be insured, was, if I may use the expression, *the whole island*. We are all satisfied that the voyage from *Jamaica* to *England* began from *St. Anne's*; that when the ship left that place, she had no view or object but to make the best of her way to *England*; that every other ship, under the same circumstances, looked upon the touching at *Bluefields* to be the safest course of navigation from *Jamaica* to *England*; and that any other would have been imprudent; that the ship sailed from *St. Anne's* for *England*, by the way of *Bluefields*, and not to *Bluefields* with any other view. If she had gone there for any other purpose, as to take in water, or letters, or to wait for a convoy, none being ready, it would then have been one voyage to *Bluefields*, and another from thence to *England*.

If the ship had gone to *Bluefields* for any other purpose, it would have been a different voyage.

As

As neither party knew from what part of the island the ship would sail, they used the words, "*At and from Jamaica,*" which protected her in going from port to port till she sailed. It follows that the word *sailed* in the warranty must mean, sailed *on her homeward voyage*. The question, then, is, Had she, or had she not, sailed on or before the day? No matter what prevented her; if she had not sailed, though for the best reasons, the policy would have been void. The contingency would not have happened, and there would have been no contract between the parties. If she had been prevented by any accident till the 2d of *August*, as by a sudden want of repair, or the appearance of an enemy at the mouth of the port, the captain would have done very right not to sail;—but then there would have been an end of the policy. It is very different from the cases where a voyage has been begun; there the usage of the voyage may justify going a little out of the direct course to join convoy, which may be reasonable, and for the benefit of all parties. But still it does not vary the fact of sailing. Had the insurance been *at and from St. Anne's*, the going round the island to *Bluefields* would have been a deviation." (a).

If the voyage be begun, the usage may justify going out of the course to join convoy.

So, where an insurance was made, '*At and from Guadaloupe, to Havre, warranted to sail on or before the 31st of December;*'—In an action on this policy, to recover for a loss by capture, it appeared that the ship took in her complete loading and provisions for *France*, and all her clearances and papers, at *Point à Pitre*, in *Guadaloupe*, and, on the 24th of *October*, sailed from thence to *Basseterre*, where there is no port, but only an open road. The governor detained her there till the 10th of *January*, when she sailed with a convoy, which had arrived some little time before; and after some days, being separated from the convoy, she was taken.—The captain, who was the only witness produced at the trial, swore that he and the other captains of ships at *Point à Pitre* bound to *Europe*

Thelluson v. Fergusson, Doug. 346.

A ship warranted to sail from *Guadaloupe* before the 31st *December*, sails on the 24th *October* to *Basseterre*, to join convoy and receive the orders of government. She is there detained by the governor till the 10th of *January*, and then sails with convoy.—The sailing to *Basseterre* on the 24th of *October* is a compliance with the warranty.

(a) Upon the second trial, the plaintiff had a verdict.—Vid. Lord *Mansfield's* observations on this case, in *Thelluson v. Staples*, *Doug. 352. n.*

had notice from the governor, some days before she sailed from thence, that a convoy was expected at *Basseterre* on the 25th of *October*; that he had used extraordinary exertions to get ready, and though he was not able to sail before the 24th, he was still in hopes of being in time for the convoy. The last ship's paper he received at *Point à Pitre* was *le rôle d'équipage*, or muster-roll, dated the 24th of *October*, which gave authority to the captain to employ the crew, consisting of 20 persons, in his return to *Havre*; adding this condition; "*passant à la Basseterre pour y prendre les ordres du gouvernement.*" Under this was written, on the same paper, an account, dated the 30th of *October*, of some changes in the number of the crew; and under that, an entry by an officer of the marine, dated at *Basseterre*, the 2nd of *January*, stating that he had examined the persons on the roll, consisting of 25, including the captain,—and granting the captain permission to return to *Havre*. On another paper produced by the plaintiff, called *le congé*, dated the 10th of *October*, were written at the bottom these words; "*Vu de relache à la Basseterre pour y attendre un convoi pour France. Ce 28 Octobre 1778.*" The captain swore he understood that the only reasons for the condition inserted in the muster-roll, that he should go to *Basseterre*, were, that the convoy was to be at that place, and that he might take such dispatches as were ready for *Europe*. He had not objected to it, because, in the regular course of his voyage to *France* from *Point à Pitre*, he must have gone that way to avoid *Montserrat*. If he had arrived in the day time, he would not have cast anchor, but would have sent his boat for the dispatches; but having arrived at night, his ship had been detained contrary to his expectation.—On the part of the defendant, beside the muster-roll, and the entry under it, were read a protest made by the captain on his arrival at *Dover*, and a part of his deposition in the proceedings in the admiralty. The words of the protest, relied on, were, "Whereupon he
 ' (the captain) waited upon the proper officer at *Point à*
 ' *Pitre* for his muster-roll, and was by him informed that
 ' it would not be granted, but on condition that he should
 ' first sail to *Basseterre* and there wait the directions of the
 ' General of the island." In a subsequent part he states
 that

that he sent to the superintendant, and to the general, to inform them, ' that the ship and cargo were insured, upon condition that she should depart from the island of *Guadaloupe*, before the 31st of *December*; the terms of which insurance it was essential to fulfil. Notwithstanding which, he was refused permission to depart, and was kept there till after the 31st of *December*.' The deposition principally relied on was as follows: ' At the time the ship was first pursued and taken, she was steering her course towards *Brest*. Her course was not altered upon the appearance of the vessel by which she was taken. It was at all times, when the weather would permit, directed to *Brest*, for which point she was directed to sail, although her destination was for *Havre*, by the ship's papers. She was not sailing *beyond or wide of Havre*. She was then about 8 leagues west of *Ushant*, and her course was not altered to any other port, but was obliged to be directed to *Brest*, in consequence of the orders he had received, subsequent to the delay of the ship's papers.—That all the ship's papers found on board were true and fair, and none of them false or colourable.—At the trial the captain also swore that his father, who had formerly commanded the ship, at *Rasseterre*, directed him to keep in the course to *Brest*: But this was done as the safest way, in time of war, of getting to *Havre*, which still continued to be the place of the ship's destination.—Upon this evidence the plaintiff obtained a verdict; and upon a motion for a new trial, two objections were made on the part of the defendant. 1st. That there had been no inception of the voyage on the 24th of *October*, nor till after the 31st of *December*, though it was admitted that a *bond fide* and complete inception of the voyage was sufficient, even though the force of an embargo, or any other compulsion, should oblige the ship immediately to stop, or put back (*a*).—2dly, That the ship never sailed on the voyage insured, viz. from *Guadaloupe* to *Havre*, but on a voyage from *Guadaloupe* to

(*a*) So ruled in a former case between the same parties, and in a case of *Earle v. Harris*, *Doug.* 352, n. inf. 358.

Under an insurance "at and from" an island the ship is protected in going from port to port in the island.

Brest —The court determined in favour of the plaintiff on both points. Lord *Mansfield* said,—“There is no contradiction between the parole evidence, and the protest and deposition. Under an insurance “at and from” such a place as *Guadeloupe* or *Jamaica*, the word, “at” comprises the whole island, and, under that word, the ship is protected in going from port to port round the coast of the island: But the question here is, whether the voyage was *bona fide* commenced, and stopped by accident. As to the condition about taking the orders of government, the ship could not sail from any part of the island without the governor’s leave. But the captain, when he left *Point à Pitre*, expected to meet a convoy at *Basseterre*, and to proceed immediately, without interruption. A convoy had been published, and he certainly would have gone to *Basseterre*, at any rate, independent of the clause in the muster-roll. With regard to the second point, the voyage to *Brest* was, at most, but an intended deviation not carried into effect.”—Mr. Justice *Buller* said,—“The case between the same parties, in 1777 is in point. There was no embargo then, nor in the present case when the ship sailed. Here there was a *bona fide* sailing; and the ship was completely ready in all respects.”

Thellusson v. Staples, Doug. 352, n.

The same point determined on a second trial.

The other underwriters on this policy, being dissatisfied with this decision, another cause was brought to trial upon the same evidence.—The second point was abandoned; but upon the first, it was insisted that, “To constitute a sailing within the meaning of the warranty in this policy, the vessel, at the time of sailing from her port of loading, must be, in the contemplation of the captain, at absolute and entire liberty to proceed to her port of delivery in a mathematical line, if it were possible.”—Lord *Mansfield*, at the trial, remained of the same opinion as in the former case, and there was again a verdict for the plaintiff, to which the defendant and all the other underwriters submitted without further litigation.

Earl v. Harris, 21 N. P. Hil. Vac. 1780.—*Doug.* 352. n.

If an embargo be published

Lord *Mansfield*, in his ~~speech~~ the jury in this last case, cited the case of *Earl v. Harris* which he said was a still stronger one.—There, an embargo was actually published before the ship sailed, and the captain immediately

diately after crossing the bar, returned to make a protest, and sent his ship knowingly into the embargo: But he swore that he expected the embargo would be taken off, and that he should proceed immediately upon his voyage; and the jury believed him.

before the ship sails, and the captain put himself into it, this will excuse his not sailing by the day.

As to the question, what shall amount to a sailing, to satisfy this warranty; there can be no doubt that where a ship once breaks ground, and is fairly under sail *upon her voyage*, though she go ever so little a way, and afterwards put back from stress of weather, or apprehension of an enemy in sight; or if she be then put under an embargo, and detained beyond the time of sailing; this is still a *beginning* to sail, and the interruption does not alter the case, because the warranty is already complied with (a).

If a ship get under sail before the day; this is a compliance though she be forced back, or detained by an embargo.

It is said, that in the case of an insurance, *at and from London*, warranted to depart on or before a given day, it has long been a question, what shall be a departure from the port of *London*; or rather what is the port of *London* (b). But if the above doctrine of Lord Mansfield be well founded, it seems to afford a ready answer to this question. The warranty does not require that the ship shall absolutely *leave* her port of departure; but only that she shall *get under weigh with intent to proceed on the voyage insured*.

What shall be a departure from the port of *London*.

Sect. V.

Of the Warranty to sail with Convoy.

ANOTHER species of warranty often inserted in policies in time of war, is *to sail, or to depart, with convoy*. This, like other warranties, must be strictly performed; and nothing will excuse the non-performance of it. If, therefore, a ship, warranted to depart with convoy, sail without convoy, the policy becomes void, *defectu conditionis*, whether this be imputable to any omission on the part of the insured, or the refusal of government to appoint a convoy. And in such case, the insurer shall not

This warranty must be strictly performed.

And if the ship sail without convoy, from whatever cause, the policy will be void.

(a) Per Lord Mansfield, N. P. in *Theelluffon v. Fergusson*, Cowp. 607.—(b) *Park*, 338.

be answerable, though the ship should be lost by the perils of the sea; for in time of war, a ship without convoy will expose herself to every other peril, to avoid that of an enemy. The fear of one danger often drives us into greater; *Cum plus in metuendo mali sit, quam in ipso illi quod timetur.*

A ship is disabled in her passage to the place of rendezvous, and the convoy sails without her. — Whether she may sail without convoy.

Emerigon puts the following case, in which he thinks the sailing with convoy may be dispensed with.—A ship is insured from *Marseilles* to *Toulon*, there to join convoy, and proceed to *America*. In her passage to *Toulon* she suffers considerable damage, and is obliged to undergo a repair there, which renders it impossible for her to avail herself of the convoy. This being a misfortune occasioned by the perils of the sea, he thinks that the ship, when repaired, may proceed without convoy, at the risk of the insurer (a).

There are five things essential to a sailing with convoy, viz. *first*, it must be with the regular convoy appointed by government; *secondly*, it must be from the place of rendezvous appointed by government; *thirdly*, it must be a convoy for the voyage; *fourthly*, the ship insured must have sailing instructions; *fifthly*, she must depart and continue with the convoy till the end of the voyage, unless separated by necessity. We will consider each of these subjects separately.

1. It must be with the regular convoy appointed by government.

A convoy, what.

A convoy, within the meaning of this warranty, is a naval force, under the command of an officer appointed by government, for the protection of merchant ships and others, during the whole voyage, or such part of it as is known to require such protection.

How the officers and seamen of ships employed as convoy are punishable for misbehaviour.

The importance of the duty which the officers and seamen, belonging to ships of war employed as convoy, have to execute, has induced the legislature to subject

(a) *Vic. Emerig. tom. i. p. 164.*

them to a more than ordinary responsibility : For, by the articles of war, enacted by the stat. 22 G. II. c. 33. art. 17. ‘ The officers and seamen of all ships appointed
‘ for convoy and guard of all merchant ships, or of any
‘ other, shall diligently attend upon that charge, without
‘ delay, according to their instructions in that behalf ; and
‘ whosoever shall be faulty therein, and shall not faithfully perform their duty, and defend the ships and goods
‘ in their convoy, without either diverting to other parts
‘ or occasions, or refusing or neglecting to fight in their
‘ defence, if they be assailed, or running away cowardly,
‘ and submitting the ships in their convoy to peril and
‘ hazard ; or shall demand or exact any money or other
‘ reward from any merchant or master for convoying of
‘ any ships or vessels intrusted to their care, or shall misuse the masters or mariners thereof, shall be condemned
‘ to make such reparation of the damage to the merchants,
‘ owners, and others, as the court of admiralty shall
‘ judge ; and also be punished criminally according to the
‘ quality of their offences, be it by pains of death or other
‘ punishment, according as shall be adjudged fit by the
‘ court martial.’

A warranty to sail with convoy, or with convoy *for the voyage*, which is the same thing, is understood to mean, with such a convoy as government thinks proper to appoint ; and whether it consist of one convoy for the voyage, or several convoys taken at different stations, it is still unquestionably a-convoy for the voyage (a).

A warranty to sail with convoy, means such convoy as government shall appoint.

It is not every single ship of war, which may happen to take merchant ships under her protection, that constitutes a convoy, within the meaning of the warranty, or the understanding of merchants. Nothing short of sailing with the convoy appointed by government for the voyage will satisfy the warranty. The reason is, that government must be supposed to be best acquainted with the plans and force of the enemy, and the strength necessary to repel their attempts.

Sailing with any other force than the convoy regularly appointed, will not satisfy the warranty.

(a) Per Lord Mansfield, in *Smith v. Readshaw*, at N. P. 1781, *Park*, 349.

Therefore,

A ship puts herself under the protection of a man of war, and joins the convoy after its departure: This is not a sailing with convoy.

Therefore, in a case which we shall have occasion to mention more particularly presently (a), where the ship insured arrived at the place of rendezvous before the time appointed for the convoy to sail; but finding the convoy gone, put herself under the protection of a man of war, which came there to join the squadron which composed the convoy, and under her protection joined the convoy, but without obtaining sailing instructions: This was determined not to be a departure with convoy within the meaning of the warranty.

2. *It must be from the place of rendezvous appointed by government.*

This is the meaning of the warranty: For though it be usually expressed in general terms *to depart*, or *to sail with convoy*; yet, as it would often be impracticable, sometimes inconvenient, and in many cases unnecessary, to appoint a convoy to sail from each particular port, there are certain places of rendezvous, appointed by government for general convenience, to each of which the merchant ships from the neighbouring ports may repair, by a given day, for convoy: And it is a sufficient compliance with the warranty if a ship depart with convoy from such place of rendezvous (b). This, like most other questions relating to insurance, is regulated by the general usage of trade.

Lathulier's case, Salk. 443.

In a voyage from London to the East Indies, it is sufficient to sail with convoy from the Downs.

Thus:—An insurance was made, ‘from London to the East Indies, warranted to depart with convoy.’ The declaration stated, that the ship proceeded to the Downs, and sailed on her voyage from thence with convoy, and was lost.—On demurrer to this declaration, it was objected that this departing with convoy from the Downs was not a departing with convoy within the meaning of the warranty: But the court held, that this warranty must be construed according to the usage of merchants; that is, that the ship should sail with convoy from such place

(a) *Hibbert v. Pigou*, inf.—(b) The same rule prevails in France, vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 166.

where a convoy for the voyage is to be had ; as the *Downs*, &c.—Lord C. J. *Holt* differed in opinion from the other judges of the court : He said,—‘ We take notice of the laws of merchants that are general, not of those that are particular usages. It is no part of the law of merchants to take convoy in the *Downs*.’

One would not hastily question any opinion given by so great a judge as lord C. J. *Holt* ; but the obvious answer to his objection is, that, to take convoy *at the usual place of rendezvous*, is part of the general law of merchants ; and that the *Downs*, in this instance, is the usual place.

The warranty being thus understood, it follows that the ship or goods insured are protected by the policy in their passage from the port of loading to the place of rendezvous appointed by government. And therefore, if the parties mean to vary from the common course, and to specify any particular place of joining convoy, this must be particularized in the policy.

Thus:—A ship was insured ‘ from *London* to *Gibraltar*, warranted to depart with convoy.’—There was a convoy appointed at *Spithead*, and the ship, having tried for convoy in the *Downs*, proceeded for *Spithead*, and was captured in her passage thither.—In an action on the policy, the insurers insisted that, this being the time of a *French* war, the ship should not have ventured through the *Channel*, but should have waited in the *Downs* for an occasional convoy : And many merchants and office keepers were examined for that purpose.—But Lord C. J. *Lee*, who tried the cause, held that the ship was to be considered as under the protection of the policy to a place of general rendezvous, according to the interpretation of this warranty in the foregoing case. And if the insurers meant to vary the insurance from what is commonly understood, they should have particularized her departure from the *Downs*. The jury under this direction found for the plaintiff (a).

The ship is protected in her passage to the place of rendezvous.

Gordon v. Morley, at N. P. 2 Str. 1265.

A ship is insured from *London* to *Gibraltar*, and the convoy appointed at *Spithead*: The ship is protected thither by the policy.

(a) Vid. *Emerigon*, tom. i. p. 166. where the same principle is laid down.

3. *It must be a convoy for the Voyage.*

Convoy in general means a convoy for the voyage.

Where part of the premium is to be returned, if the ship sail with convoy and arrive; this means a convoy for the voyage.

Lilly v. Ewer, Doug, 72.

Part of the premium is agreed to be returned if the ship sail with convoy from Gibraltar, and arrive.—

This means a sailing with convoy for the voyage; and a sailing with convoy for part of the voyage will not entitle the insured to the return of premium.

A warranty to sail with convoy generally, means a *convoy for the voyage*; and it is not necessary to add the words, '*for the voyage*,' in order to make it so. Neither will the adding of these words, in some instances, make the omission of them, in any case, the ground of a different construction. If, therefore, it be stipulated in a policy, that the underwriters shall return a part of the premium, if the ship sail with convoy and arrive; this, like a general warranty to sail with convoy, means a *convoy for the voyage*; and sailing with a convoy for only a part of the voyage, will not entitle the insured to the stipulated return of premium.

Thus:—The *Parker Galley* was insured, 'At and from *Venice* to the *Currant Islands*, and at and from thence to *London*;' at a premium of five guineas per cent. 'to return two per cent. if the ship sailed with convoy from Gibraltar, and arrived.'—The ship touched at Gibraltar on her way home, and sailed from thence under convoy of a sloop of war; which, however, was only destined to go to a certain latitude, as far as *Cape Finisterre*, being ordered on the *Lisbon* station; and accordingly, the ship and convoy separated, and the ship arrived safe at *London*.—The insured brought an action for money had and received against one of the underwriters, for a return of the two per cent. and the only question was, whether, by the terms of the policy, the condition for the return of this two per cent. was, a departure from Gibraltar, with such convoy as could be met with, for whatever part of the voyage that might happen to be; or, a departure with *convoy for the voyage*.—At the trial, the plaintiff called witnesses to prove, that, for some years past, when a *convoy for the voyage*, or the *whole voyage*, was intended, those explanatory words had been added; and that, by this usage, the expressions, "sailing with convoy;" and, a sailing with *convoy for the voyage*," had acquired distinct technical meanings; "with convoy," merely, signifying whatever convoy the ship should depart with, whether for a greater or less part of the

the voyage. Several policies were also produced filled up by the same broker who had prepared the present, in which the words "for the voyage," or, "for *England*," were added. It was also proved, that at the time when the ship left *Gibraltar*, no other convoy was to be had. Witnesses for the defendant swore, that they understood the words "*with convoy*," to mean, *convoy for the voyage*: And the broker said, that, at the time this policy was signed, he understood, and apprehended it was so understood by all the parties, that the convoy was to be for the voyage; and that the return was such as was usual when that was meant.—There was a verdict for the plaintiff.—But the court, upon motion, set this verdict aside, and granted a new trial, being of opinion, that the words, "to depart with convoy," mean *with convoy for the voyage*.—Lord *Mansfield*, who had tried the cause, said,—“At the trial I was strongly of opinion, that, on the words, the policy meant a departure with convoy intended for the voyage. The parties could not mean a departure with convoy that might be designed to separate from the ship in a minute or two. But I still think that the evidence of an usage, not inconsistent with the words of the policy, was properly received at the trial. However, the people in the city think the evidence of the plaintiff's witnesses was founded on a mistake. Certainly, critical niceties ought not to be encouraged in commercial concerns, and wherever you render additional words necessary, and multiply them, you multiply doubts and criticisms. It may be hard, because words have been added in some instances, to force a construction in a particular case, by the omission of them.”—Upon the second trial there was a verdict for the defendant.

Evidence of an usage of trade not inconsistent with the terms of the policy, is admissible.

Yet, a warranty to sail with convoy does not, in all cases, mean a convoy which is to accompany the ship insured the entire way from her port of departure to her port of destination. A convoy means such convoy as government thinks fit to appoint as a sufficient protection for ships going the voyage insured; whether it be for the whole, or only a part of the voyage.

Yet, it does not always mean a convoy for the whole of the voyage; but only such convoy as government shall appoint.

Thus: An insurance was made on goods, 'At and from *London* to *St. Sebastian* in *Spain*, warranted to de-

D'Eguino v. Berwick, 2 H. Bl. 551.

'part

Goods are insured from London to St. Sebastian, and a convoy is appointed from Spithead to Bilbao:—A sailing with this is a compliance with the warranty.

‘part with convoy for the voyage.’—No convoy was appointed directly to *St. Sebastian*, but the ship sailed from *Spithead* under a convoy of frigates, the commander of which had orders from the admiralty, to proceed to *Gibraltar*, with the trade bound ‘to that place and *Bilboa*, ‘and to detach the *Weazel* sloop of war with the latter, ‘with orders to see them safe to *Bilboa*, and then return ‘to *England* with such vessels as he should find at *Bilboa*.’ At the proper time, the *Weazel* was detached by the *Commodore*, with the trade to *Bilboa* and *St. Sebastian*, with orders ‘to see them safe off *Bilboa*, and to take ‘any vessels bound from thence to *England*, under his convoy to *Spithead*.’ The *Weazel* proceeded on this voyage, but soon after parted from the ships under his convoy, in chase of a strange ship, and did not afterwards join them. The ship arrived safe off *Bilboa*, which was in her course to *St. Sebastian*, but was taken in her way thither.—The underwriters objected that, the convoy being only to *Bilboa*, the warranty had not been complied with. That a convoy to *Bilboa* could no more be construed to be a convoy to *St. Sebastian*, than a convoy to the *Cape of Good Hope* would be a convoy to the *East Indies*.—But the court held clearly that this was a compliance with the warranty.—Mr. Justice *Buller* said, that this was not like the case of *Hibbert v. Pigou* (a); for there a convoy was appointed and actually sailed from *Jamaica* to *England*; that the owner of a ship, when he makes an insurance, cannot know the orders of the admiralty respecting convoys, but must take such convoy as is provided for him; that, as to the instance of a convoy to the *Cape of Good Hope*, if government thought that a sufficient protection to the *East India* trade, and the usage were for *East India* ships to sail with convoy only to the *Cape*, and to consider that as the *East India* convoy, and no other convoy were appointed to the *East Indies*, the warranty would be complied with; though if there were another convoy to the *East Indies* it would be otherwise.

(a) Inf.

So, if a ship sail with a convoy for a part of the voyage, with intent to take another convoy for the residue, being according to the usage of the particular trade; this is a compliance with the warranty.

Thus:—An insurance was made on a ship from *Tortola* to *London*, “warranted to sail *with convoy for the voyage*.”

—It appeared, that a frigate was sent by the commander at *St. Kitts* to *Tortola*, to bring up the ships from thence, with orders, if they got a certain way to the northward, to go straight for *England*. They sailed from *Tortola*, but the ship insured being a bad sailer, fell behind, lost the convoy, and bore away for *England*, but was captured on her passage.—There was evidence that she could not have made either *St. Kitts* or *Tortola* again, and that she did for the best in bearing away for *England*. On the other side it was in evidence that she might have kept up with the convoy, as the frigate never sailed above three knots an hour.—There was a verdict for the plaintiff.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the court held this to be a sufficient sailing with convoy within the meaning of the warranty.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The frigate was the convoy from *Tortola*. The warranty never specifies the *force* of the convoy, that being left to government. The policy is, that the ship shall sail from *Tortola* with convoy *for the voyage*. But the usage governs this agreement. The commander sends part of his force to bring them to meet him, and that is a convoy from *Tortola*. The sailing orders are from the commander of the convoy for *England*.”

It is frequently stipulated, that a part of the premium shall be returned in case the ship shall sail *with convoy*, or with *convoy for the voyage*, and arrive (a); and upon the construction of this clause, it has been determined that if a ship sail with convoy for the general place of rendezvous, where convoy for the voyage would be found, this is a sailing with convoy, within the meaning of the policy.

As where a ship was insured ‘from *Oporto* to *Lynn*, ‘with liberty to touch and stay at any ports or places on

Separate convoys for different parts of the voyage.

Manning v. Giff,
B. R. E. 22 G.
III.—MS

A ship sails with a frigate to the rendezvous, with directions in a certain case, to proceed on the voyage. She loses the convoy, and instead of proceeding to the rendezvous, bears away for her place of destination:—This is a sailing with convoy.

A ship sailing with convoy to the general place of rendezvous, is a sailing with convoy for the voyage.

Audley v. Duff,
2 Ref. & Pul. 111.
inf. ch. 15. § 3.

(a) Vid. inf. ch. 15. § 3.

‘ the

‘the coast of *Portugal* to join convoy; at 12 guineas per cent. to return 6l. if the ship should sail with convoy from ‘the coast of *Portugal*, and arrive.’—The ship sailed under convoy from *Oporto* for *Lisbon*, where the whole trade bound for *England* were to rendezvous, in order to sail together from thence. The ships going from *Oporto* for *Lisbon*, being dispersed in a gale of wind, the ship insured ran for *England*, and arrived.—It was determined that this sailing with convoy from *Oporto* for *Lisbon*, to join the general convoy there, was a sailing with convoy from the coast of *Portugal*, so as to entitle the insured to the stipulated return of premium.

De Garay v. Claggett, at N.P. 1795. Park, 349.

A ship insured from *Cadiz* to *Amsterdam* takes a convoy to *England*, with intent to take another convoy to *Amsterdam*—This being according to usage, is a compliance with the warranty.

So, where a ship, insured ‘At and from *Cadiz* to ‘*Amsterdam*, warranted to depart with convoy for the ‘voyage, sailed from *Cadiz* under a *British* convoy, and was lost before she reached the *Downs*, where it was alleged the ships were to have taken a fresh convoy for *Amsterdam*.—In an action on this policy, the underwriters insisted that the convoy should have been direct to *Amsterdam*. The insured, on the other hand, contended, that all convoy must be according to usage, and that, in many voyages, there is no such thing as a direct convoy; but the ships proceed by relays of convoy, from stage to stage.—Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, was of this opinion, and held that the warranty had been complied with.

4. *The Ship insured must have sailing Instructions.*

Sailing instructions, what.

SAILING instructions are written or printed directions, delivered by the commanding officer of the convoy to the several masters of the ships under his care, by which they are enabled to understand and answer his signals, to know the place of rendezvous appointed for the fleet in case of dispersion by storm, or by an enemy, &c. Such, therefore is the utility and the necessity of these sailing instructions, that no vessel can have the full protection and benefit of convoy without them. Sailing instructions are, therefore, so essential to a sailing with convoy, that, in general, unless they be obtained, the ship

Essential to a sailing with convoy.

ship cannot be said to have sailed with convoy; and the warranty, therefore, is not complied with. It is one thing to be under the *convoy* of a ship of war, and another thing to sail merely under her *auspices* (a).

Thus:—An insurance was made on the *Arundel*, Captain Mann, ‘At and from *Jamaica* to *London*, warranted to depart with convoy.’—The ship sailed from *Morant* harbour to *Kingston*, where she met the *Glorieux*, Captain Cadogan, on her way to join Admiral Graves at *Bluefields*, who had been commanded by Lord Rodney to rendezvous there, in order to convoy the merchant ships, which were to sail from thence on the first of *August* to *Great Britain*. Captain Mann asked for sailing orders from Captain Cadogan, who said he had none, not having joined the admiral; but he was sure the admiral would not sail from *Bluefields* before the *Glorieux* joined him. If he should, he, Captain Cadogan, would give Captain Mann sailing orders, and take every care of the *Arundel*. They proceeded together, and arrived at *Bluefields* on the 28th of *July*; but found that Admiral Graves had sailed two days before. The *Glorieux* and *Arundel* then sailed from *Bluefields*; the former behaving in every respect as a convoy. On the 7th of *August* they joined the fleet off *Cape Antonio*. In *September*, the whole fleet was

Hibbert v. Pigou,
B. R. East, 23
G. III. MS.—

A ship arrives at the place of rendezvous before the time appointed for the convoy to sail; but finding the convoy gone, puts herself under the protection of a man of war, and afterwards joins the convoy, but without getting sailing instructions: This is not a departing with convoy.

(a) “*Autre chose est d’être sous l’escorte d’un bâtiment du Roi, et autre chose est de naviguer simplement sous ses auspices.*” *Emerig.* tom. i. p. 171. There is in *Park*, 4th Edition, p. 342. a case of *France v. Kirwin* at N. P. after Mich. 38 G. III. in which it is stated that it was the object of the plaintiff to get a decision on the point, *how far sailing instructions were essential to a sailing with convoy*; and that Lord Kenyon expressed the strong inclination of his opinion to be, that they were essential; but he would not decide it, as the ship in question had never, in fact, joined; and upon that ground the plaintiff was nonsuited.—It is somewhat strange, that the plaintiff in that case should seek to obtain a decision upon a point that seems to have been already settled as a general proposition; but it is still more strange that the plaintiff should hope to get a point decided which in his case never could arise, since the ship insured had never joined the convoy at all.

dispersed in a storm, and the *Arundel*, with many others, lost.—Upon this evidence, Lord *Mansfield*, who tried the cause, was of opinion that the warranty had not been performed, and under his direction, the jury found for the defendant.—Upon a motion for a new trial, this opinion was confirmed by the court.—Lord *Mansfield* said, “There are hypothetical contracts, and conditional contracts. In the former, the contract depends on an event taking place. There is no latitude, no equity; the only question is, has that event happened? But conditional contracts admit of a more liberal construction. Now the only question upon this contract is, whether this ship departed with convoy. A great deal must be referred to the usage of merchants. The government appoints a convoy for the trade, and names a place of rendezvous. Then, by the usage of the trade, the voyage begins at *Kingston*; but the convoy only commences at *Bluefields*; and, by the same usage, the warranty does not require convoy to *Bluefields*. Amongst merchants, a convoy is understood to be, *a naval force, under the command of a person appointed by government for that purpose*. Admiral *Graves* is appointed to rendezvous with ten sail of the line at *Bluefields*, and from thence to convoy the trade to *Great Britain*. When they come to the place of rendezvous, they take sailing orders from the admiral, *which are essential to sailing with convoy*; as, by them, they know the signals, for what place they are to steer, in case of dispersion by storm, or any other cause. Admiral *Graves*, on the 26th of *July*, for reasons best known to himself, thinks he has got all the ships for which he ought to stay, and proceeds on his voyage. He leaves no order for the *Glorieux* to follow him to *Cape Antonio*; and though it is true that the Commander in chief may change the place of rendezvous, yet, in this case, it is not true, as was supposed in argument, that *Cape Antonio* was appointed. At the time of sailing from *Bluefields*, the *Glorieux* was no part of the convoy; for she did not come there till two days after the fleet was gone.—Mr. Justice *Buller* delivered his opinion nearly to the same effect, except that he did not think sailing orders *absolutely necessary*.—Mr. Justice *Willes*, was of opinion that,

as the convoy had failed two days before the proper time, and no *laches* were imputable to the *Admiral*; and as he thought that failing orders were not essential to convoy, the warranty was sufficiently performed (a).

Yet it would seem that failing instructions are not so indispensably necessary, that in every case, and at all events, they must be obtained. Mr. Justice *Buller*, in the case of *Webb v. Thomson*, seems to have drawn the line with great precision.—The cause had been tried before Lord C. J. *Eyre*; and, upon a motion for a new trial, in his lordship's absence, Mr. Justice *Buller* said;—"Had not my lord C. J. *Eyre* declared that the verdict in this case was entirely to his satisfaction, I should not decide upon this application in the first instance. The case is here brought to a question of law. *In point of law, then, the general position is, that failing instructions are necessary.* I have never decided this point myself; but it has often been decided. I do not say that there may not be cases in which they may be dispensed with. In *Hibbert v. Pigou*, my expression is,—'It is not necessary to say whether failing orders are essential or not. As at present advised, I do not say that they are absolutely necessary.' The case of *Victorin v. Cleeve* goes no further. If the ship insured be at the place of rendezvous within the time appointed for the failing of the convoy, but, from any misfortune, from stress of weather or other circumstances, the master have been absolutely prevented from obtaining his failing instructions, and he depart with the convoy; this shall be deemed a failing with convoy. But then he must take the earliest opportunity to obtain his failing instructions. Generally speaking, unless failing instructions are obtained, the warranty is not complied with. The captain cannot answer signals; he does not know

Webb v. Thomson, 1 Bos. & Pul. 5.

There may be cases in which the want of failing instructions may be excused.

(a) It is scarcely necessary to observe, that this opinion of Mr. Justice *Willes* is not founded upon any principle known in the law of insurance. It might be an apology for the captain's failing as he did; and perhaps Admiral *Graves* might have been answerable for the loss occasioned by his leaving the place of rendezvous before the time appointed; but the warranty was not complied with; and nothing will excuse that non-compliance.

the place of rendezvous in a storm; he does not, in effect, put himself under the protection of the convoy, and therefore the underwriters are not benefited."—Mr. Justice *Heatb* and Mr. Justice *Roake* concurred in this opinion.

Victorin v. Cleave
at N. P. 2 Str.
1250.

A ship joins convoy, but, by *stress of weather*, is unable to get sailing instructions; yet this is a departing with convoy.

In the following case, *stress of weather* was held to be a sufficient excuse for not obtaining sailing instructions.

An insurance was made 'from *Gottenburgh* to *London*, 'with a warranty to depart with convoy from *Fleckery*.'—

In *July* 1744, the ship sailed from *Gottenburgh* to *Fleckery*, where she waited two months for convoy. On the 21st of *September*, at nine in the morning, three men of war, with a large convoy, stood off *Fleckery*, and ordered 'the ships there to come out. The ship insured got out by twelve o'clock, and was one of the first. The convoy, having sailed gently on, was two leagues a-head. It was a hard gale, and by six in the afternoon, the ship came up with the fleet; but could not get to either of the men of war, for sailing orders, on account of the gale of wind. It was stormy all night, and at day-break the ship was in the midst of the fleet; but the weather was so bad, that no boat could be sent for sailing orders. A *French* privateer had sailed among them all night; and it being foggy the next day, attacked the ship, which kept a running fight till dark, which was renewed next morning, when she was taken.—It was insisted, that this ship was never under convoy; no ship being ever considered as being so, till she has received sailing orders; and if the weather would not permit the captain to get them, he should have gone back.—But lord Chief Justice *Lee*, who tried the cause, was of opinion, that as the captain had done every thing in his power to obtain sailing orders, it was a departing with convoy.—'These 'agreements,' said the Chief Justice, 'are never confined 'to precise words: As in the case of departing with 'convoy from *London*, when the place of rendezvous is 'at *Spithead*, a loss in going thither is within the policy.' So the plaintiff recovered.

Victor v. Wil-
mer, at G. H.
July 1744,
Park, 341.

So, where the ship insured had departed from *London*, and, on her arrival in the *Drums*, found the convoy under sail. The captain sent one of his men on board for

for sailing orders, which were refused; but the commodore said, “*Keep on, and I will take care of you.*” The ship was stranded and lost that night; and the question was, whether she was ever under convoy, not having sailing orders—Lord C. J. *Lee* held that she was under convoy, and the plaintiff had a verdict.

This case can only be supported upon the presumption that it was proved at the trial, that the ship was in the *Downs* before the time appointed for the convoy to sail; and that the captain had done all in his power to obtain sailing instructions. Had the plaintiff failed in either of these points, he would have been without excuse for the want of them. He is bound to be at the place of rendezvous before the time fixed for the sailing of the convoy; and indeed he ought to be there in time to procure his sailing instructions, when they are delivered out to the other ships.—He is bound also to use all due diligence to obtain sailing instructions, before the departure of the convoy; and if he lose any opportunity, when it is possible for him to obtain them, and depart without them, this will not be a sailing with convoy, though he keep under the protection of the convoy, and get his sailing instructions as soon after sailing as he can.

Thus:—An insurance was made on the ship *Golden Grove*, ‘At and from *London*, to all or any of the *West India* Islands, *Jamaica* and *St. Domingo* excepted; with leave to go to the place of rendezvous to join convoy, and warranted to sail from thence with convoy for the voyage.’—The ship being lost soon after she sailed from *Portsmouth*, the plaintiff, who was an underwriter upon the policy, paid 284l. 5s. to the defendant, the insured, on account of the loss; but afterwards, having reason to think that the ship never received her sailing instructions, and therefore could not have departed with convoy, he brought the present action, for money had and received, to recover back the sum which he had thus paid under a mistake and in his own wrong.—Upon the trial of the cause, it appeared that the ship arrived at *Spithead* about nine o’clock in the morning of the 15th of *November* 1795, under the care of the chief mate, the captain himself being on shore at *Portsmouth*. On the preceding day (the 14th), sailing

If the convoy be under sail, and the captain apply for sailing instructions, which are refused; but he is ordered to keep on, and he will be taken care of; this is a sailing with convoy.

Anderson v. Pitcher, 2 Bos. & Pul. 104. 3 Esp. Rep. 124. S. C.

A ship comes to the place of rendezvous after the convoy is under weigh; but the captain does not come on board till some hours after. Had he been on board on her arrival, he might have got sailing instructions. He sails with the convoy, but is unable to get his sailing instructions till next day:—This is not a compliance with the warranty.

5. *The Ship must depart, and continue with the Convoy till the end of the Voyage, unless separated by necessity.*

If the ship neglect to get under weigh in time, it is a breach of the warranty.

If the ship, by negligence or delay in getting under weigh at the same time with the convoy, lose the benefit of protection, though for ever so short a time; this is not a departing with convoy, and the policy becomes void.

Taylor v. Woodnesh, at N. P. Hil. Vac. 4 G. III. Park, 349.

As where the commander of a convoy from *Spithead* made signals for sailing to *St. Helens* overnight, and the next morning, from seven o'clock till twelve, made repeated signals to get under weigh; yet one of the convoy did not sail till two hours after him; in consequence of which she was captured by a privateer. — This being clearly a breach of the warranty, Lord *Mansfield* nonsuited the plaintiff.

The ship must not only depart with convoy, but also continue with it, unless separated by necessity.

But by this warranty, the insured undertakes not only to depart, or to sail, with convoy, but also to do all in his power to continue with such convoy during the voyage, or so much of it as is usual and necessary, and not to separate from it unless compelled by necessity. But if, after the ship has got under weigh, she lose the convoy, or even her proper *place* or *position* in it, and this be occasioned by any unnecessary delay, or by the negligence or misconduct of the master, the underwriters are discharged.

Walsham & anr. v. Thompson, at G. H. after East. 1801. MS.

A ship gets under weigh with the convoy, but waits some time for the master to come on board, whereby she loses her position in the convoy: —

The underwriters are discharged.

As where the ship *Atlas* was insured, 'At and from London to Madeira, warranted to sail with East or West India convoy.' — The ship sailed from London on the 16th of November 1800, to join convoy at *Portsmouth*, and arrived at *Stokes Bay* on the 20th. The master, in proper time, took sailing instructions from the captain of the *Andromeda*, for *West India* convoy. On the 7th of December, at ten o'clock in the morning, the convoy, consisting of about 300 sail, got under weigh. The master of the *Atlas* was then on shore at *Stokes Bay* waiting for a *Mediterranean* pass, which he expected from London by the post, and the *Atlas* stood off and on waiting

ing for him, while the fleet was standing for the *Needles*. A boat was sent ashore for him ; but returned with an answer that it would be time enough by and by. The pilot then dropped anchor, and the ship's company were ordered to dinner. At three o'clock the master came on board, and expressed some displeasure at what had happened, declaring that he had not sent the above message. The ship was immediately got under weigh ; but almost the whole of the fleet were then passing through the *Needles*, *hull down*, that is, with only their masts and sails visible. Some, however, were observed to be astern of the *Atlas* after the master came on board, and after she had got under weigh. She made all sail to overtake the fleet, but night coming on, it was dark when she arrived off *Yarmouth*, and passing three vessels at anchor there, which the master took for part of the convoy, he likewise brought the *Atlas* to an anchor there, intending to sail early the next morning. But in the morning he found that the three vessels at anchor were no part of the convoy, and there being a strong tide against him, and no wind, he was prevented from sailing till twelve o'clock. The *Atlas* then stood after the convoy, crowding all sail till the 10th of *December*, when she was captured.—In an action on the policy, the underwriters paid the premium into court, deducting a guinea *per cent.* for the risk at and from *London* to *Portsmouth* (a).—Upon this case, Lord *Kenyon*, in his address to the jury, said, —“ If by the master's negligence the ship lost the convoy, or was put in a worse position than she might have been in, the underwriters are discharged. It appears to me that he has not done what he ought. It is said, that vessels that were astern of the *Atlas* got through the *Needles* with the convoy : But that is no answer. The ship would not have been in the same position, if she had not waited for the captain ; and the position which this delay has put her in, has occasioned the loss. But for this delay, she might have been in the fore rank instead of the

(a) Vid. *Stevenson v. Snow*, inf. ch. 15. § 2. and the convoy act, 38 G. III. c. 76. § 4. inf. 380.

hind rank.”—The jury, under this direction, found for the defendant.

But the ship is not bound to keep with the convoy, at all events, the whole voyage.

All, however, that the warranty requires, and all that the insured can absolutely undertake to do, is, never to separate from the convoy, unless compelled by necessity. No man would enter into a warranty to keep with the convoy at all events, during the whole of the voyage, so as that both ship and convoy shall arrive together; because that is often, through stress of weather, and other causes, rendered impossible: And, though convoy for the voyage be clearly intended by the usual warranty, yet, an unavoidable separation is an accident to which the ship is liable, and the insurer still continues responsible for any loss that may happen during such separation.

Jeffery v. Legendra, 3 Lev. 320.
5 C. Carth. 216.
2 Salk. 443.
1 Show. 320.
4 Mod. 58.

A ship sails with convoy, and is separated by stress of weather, but does all in her power to rejoin the convoy:—This will not discharge the insurers.

But if the master, through fraud or negligence, leave his convoy, it is a breach of the warranty.

If a ship, separated from the convoy, neglect to rejoin it, the insurers are discharged.

Thus:—A ship was insured, ‘from *London* to *Naples*, warranted to depart with convoy.’—The ship did depart from the port of *London*, in company with the convoy, but two days after was separated by a storm. The convoy put into *Torbay*, and the ship insured into *Fowey* in *Cornwall*. Three days afterwards, the wind setting right to bring the convoy down the *Channel*, the ship sailed from *Fowey* to meet the convoy; but it did not come, and the ship meeting with another storm, was driven on the *French coast*, and there taken.—Upon this case it was decided that the insured was entitled to recover, there being no neglect or default in the master of the ship; and that, having departed with convoy, and done all in his power to keep company with it, this answers the words of the policy.—That the meaning of the warranty, to depart with convoy, is, that the ship shall keep company with the convoy during the whole voyage, if possible; and, therefore, if the master be guilty of any fraud or negligence after his departure, notwithstanding he departed with the convoy, this is a breach of the warranty, and the policy is discharged.

If a ship be separated from the convoy by stress of weather or any other cause, she ought to use every endeavour to rejoin it as soon as she is able; but if she neglect to do so, the insurers will be discharged.

Before we conclude this branch of the subject, it will be proper

proper to mention the regulations which have been made by a late act of parliament on the subject of convoy.

The avidity of gain which usually accompanies commercial adventure, having often tempted our merchants to risk their ships and goods at sea, in time of war, without the protection of convey, and which they were enabled to do at the expence of an additional premium to cover the additional risk, the wisdom of government perceived the impolicy of suffering the continuance of a practice, as injurious to our commerce as it was beneficial to the enemy; and therefore an act of parliament was passed for the double purpose of compelling ships to sail with convoy, and, by a moderate tax on foreign commerce, to raise a revenue sufficient to defray the extraordinary expences of providing an adequate naval force for this purpose.

By stat. 38 G. III. c. 76. § 1. it is enacted, ' That
' no ship or vessel belonging to his Majesty's subjects,
' (except as therein-after is excepted), shall sail or depart
' from any port or place whatsoever, unless under the
' convoy and protection of such ship or ships as may be
' appointed for that purpose.'

' That the master or other person having the charge or
' command of every ship or vessel, which shall sail or
' depart under the protection of convoy, shall and is
' thereby required to use his utmost endeavours to con-
' tinue with such convoy during the whole of the voyage,
' or during such part thereof as such convoy shall be di-
' rected to accompany and protect such ship; and shall
' not wilfully separate or depart therefrom upon any pre-
' tence whatever, without order or leave for that purpose
' from the officer having the command of such convoy.'

' That if the master or commander of any ship,
' which is by this act required not to sail without convoy,
' shall sail without convoy; or having sailed with convoy,
' shall wilfully depart therefrom without leave first ob-
' tained from the person entrusted with the charge of such
' convoy, every such master shall forfeit 1000l. and in
' case the whole or any part of the cargo consisted of na-
' val or military stores, the penalty is 1500l. with a power
' in the court, where the action may happen to be
brought

By stat. 38 G.
III. c. 76. § 1.
No ship belong-
ing to his Majes-
ty's subjects
(except as here-
after) shall sail
from any port
without convoy.

§ 1. The master
of every ship
sailing under
convoy, shall do
his utmost to
continue with
the convoy, and
shall not quit it
without leave.

§ 3. Any master
sailing without
convoy, or quit-
ting it without
leave, shall lose
1000l.; and
in case the cargo
consists of naval
or military
stores, 1500l.

§ 4. In case of a sailing without, or deserting, convoy, the insurance on the ship shall be void; and the premium shall not be recoverable back.

‘brought, to mitigate the penalties, so as that they are not reduced to a less sum than 50l. (a).

‘That in case of a sailing without, or a wilful desertion of, convoy, every insurance, or contract or agreement for any insurance, upon such ship, or goods, wares or merchandize laden thereon, or upon any property, freight, or other interest arising out of the same, whereon insurances may be lawfully made, (and which shall be the property of the master or commander of the ship, so sailing without convoy, or wilfully quitting the same, or if any person interested in such vessel or cargo, who shall have directed or been any way privy to, or instrumental in causing such ship or vessel to sail without convoy, or wilfully to separate therefrom), shall be null and void to all intents and purposes both at law and in equity, any contract or agreement to the contrary notwithstanding; and that nothing shall be recovered thereon by the insured for loss or damage, or for the premium, or consideration in nature of premium, which shall have been given for such insurance: And if any party to such insurance, or any broker or other person shall transact a settlement, or allow any money in account, on such insurance, every such person shall forfeit 200l.’

§ 5. Before any ship shall clear outwards, bond shall be given that she shall not sail without, or desert convoy.

‘That the officers of the customs shall not permit vessels to clear outwards, till bond has been given with one surety, in the penalty of the value of the ship, with condition that the ship shall not sail without, nor wilfully desert, the convoy.’

(a) In *France* the punishment for quitting convoy was much more severe. By an ordinance of 1689, the master of a merchant ship, separating from his convoy, was condemned to the galleys. This punishment, by an ordinance of 1745, was moderated to a fine of 1000 livres, a year's imprisonment, and being declared incapable of ever commanding any vessel at sea—By an ordinance of 1765, the commander of the convoy is directed to give an account to the secretary of state for the marine department, of such masters of merchant ships as navigate badly, or delay the convoy. Vid. *Emerig.* tom. i. p. 167. 443.

‘But

‘ But this act is not to extend to vessels, not required
 ‘ to be registered by any acts then in force ; nor to any ship
 ‘ having a licence signed by the Lords of the Admiralty
 ‘ to sail without convoy, or by such persons as shall be
 ‘ duly authorized by them for that purpose ; or to any ship
 ‘ proceeding with due diligence to join convoy from the
 ‘ port or place of departure, except as to the bond hereby
 ‘ required to be taken upon the clearance outwards ; or to
 ‘ any ship bound to or from any port in *Ireland* ; or to ships
 ‘ bound from one port to another in *Great Britain* ; nor
 ‘ to ships in the service of the *East India* or *Hudson’s Bay*
 ‘ companies.’

‘ That this act is not to extend to ships sailing from
 ‘ foreign ports, in case no convoy is appointed by the
 ‘ Lords of the Admiralty of *England*, or persons autho-
 ‘ rized by them at such foreign ports to appoint convoys,
 ‘ or to grant licences for sailing without convoy.’

‘ That the Lords of the Admiralty are to give notice
 ‘ in the *London* and *Dublin Gazettes*, that masters of ships
 ‘ shall have on board, flags and vanes for the purpose of
 ‘ distinction, and of answering signals ; and without
 ‘ which they are not to be cleared outwards.’

‘ That so much of the stat. 33 G. III. ch. 66, sect. 8,
 ‘ as makes the masters of ships under convoy liable to be
 ‘ articted in the Court of Admiralty, for disobeying sig-
 ‘ nals or other lawful commands of the commodore, or
 ‘ deserting convoy, and finable at the discretion of the
 ‘ said court, in any sum not exceeding 500l. and punish-
 ‘ able by imprisonment, not exceeding one year, shall be
 ‘ painted on a board, and affixed on some conspicuous
 ‘ and convenient part of every ship which by this act is
 ‘ required not to sail or depart without convoy ; and that
 ‘ in default thereof, every master or other person, having
 ‘ the charge or command of any such ship, shall forfeit,
 ‘ for every such offence, the sum of 50l.

‘ That if any ship, required by this act not to sail with-
 ‘ out convoy, shall be in imminent danger of being taken
 ‘ by the enemy, the commander of the ship shall make
 ‘ signals by firing guns to convey information of his dan-
 ‘ ger to the rest of the convoy, as well as to the ships
 ‘ of war under the protection of which he is sailing ; and

§ 6. This act is not to extend to vessels not required to be registered, nor, having licences to sail without convoy, or going to join convoy, or bound to *Ireland*, or from one port to another in *Great Britain*, or to the ships of the *India* or *Hudson’s Bay* companies.

§ 8. Nor to ships sailing from foreign ports, where no convoy is appointed.

§ 9. Masters of ships shall have flags, &c. to answer signals.

§ 10. The clause of the 33 G. III. c. 66. for punishing masters for deserting convoy or disobeying signals, shall be put up in every ship on pain of 50l.

§ 11. Ships in danger of being taken shall make signals, and if taken the master shall destroy his sailing instructions on pain of 100 l.

‘ that

‘that in case he is taken possession of, he shall destroy all
 ‘instructions confided to him relating to the convoy; and
 ‘every commander wilfully neglecting to make such
 ‘signals, or to destroy such instructions, shall, for every
 ‘such offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding 100l.’

These are the principal clauses relating to sailing with
 convoy; the rest of the act is employed in fixing the
 duties, and directing how they shall be collected.—
 This act being to continue during the then hostilities
 with *France*, expired upon the ratification of the peace
 of 1801, and was re-enacted upon the renewal of the
 war in 1803 by stat. 43 G. III. c. 57, which is to con-
 tinue in force during the present hostilities with *France*.

The sixth section of this act provides that it shall not
 extend to vessels *not required to be registered*. A foreign-
 built ship, though *British* owned, is not required to be
 registered, by any of the register acts; and therefore an
 insurance on such a ship is good, though she sail without
 convoy, and without a licence to do so.

A foreign-built
 ship, though
British owned,
 is not required
 to be registered;
 therefore she
 may sail without
 convoy, and
 without a licence
 to do so.

Long v. Duff,
 and *Long v. Bol-*
ton, 2 Bof. &
Pul. 209.

A foreign built
 ship, *British*
 owned, sails
 without convoy,
 and without a
 licence so to do.
 —The ship be-
 ing within the
 exception of the
 38 G. III. c. 76,
 § 6, a policy on
 her will be good;
 and it is not ne-
 cessary to com-
 municate to the
 underwriters at
 the time of
 making the po-
 licy, that the
 ship is foreign
 built.

Thus.—The ship *Lucy* was insured in several policies,
 ‘At and from *Padstow* in *Cornwall* to *Leghorn*.’—She was
Spanish built and purchased at *Hamburg* by the plaintiff,
 a *British* subject.—She was not registered, but had paid
 the alien duties. Previously to her sailing on the voyage
 insured, the captain applied for a licence to proceed
 without convoy to *Leghorn* and *Naples*, but only obtained
 a licence for *Naples*, without convoy, and was captured
 off that place by a *French* privateer. The only difference
 between the two cases was, that in the former it was
 represented to the underwriters, at the time of effecting the
 policy, that the *Lucy* was a foreign-built ship, and not
 registered; in the latter, no such representation was made.
 —It was objected, in both actions, that as the licence
 obtained did not extend to the voyage insured, the *Lucy*,
 though foreign built, and *British* owned, was within the
 provisions of the stat. 38 G. III. c. 76, the convoy act,
 which makes void all policies upon ships sailing with-
 out convoy; and in the second, that supposing her not
 to be within the provisions of that act, that circum-
 stance ought to have been communicated to the under-
 writers.—Upon the trial it was left to the jury to deter-
 mine

mine whether, according to the usage of merchants, it was the duty of the insured to give this information, or of the underwriter to satisfy himself upon that point. The jury decided, that it was the business of the underwriter to obtain this information for himself.—Upon motions for new trials in these causes, the court decided, that it was properly left to the jury to determine this point, and also that foreign built ships in the hands of *British* owners are not required to be registered, and therefore, that the verdicts for the plaintiff must stand.—Lord *Eldon*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said :—“ With respect to the general point, the question is, whether a vessel in the situation of the *Lucy*, departing without convoy, not having obtained a proper licence so to do, can be deemed to be protected by the policy, or, whether that policy be not altogether void under the provisions of the stat. 38 G. III. c. 76, §. 4 (a). The policy of this act, as stated in the preamble, is, ‘ that it will add to the security of ‘ trade to prevent ships sailing without convoy, except ‘ in certain cases.’ This will undoubtedly apply to ships foreign built. But whether it was intended to be carried to that extent, is the question we are now to decide; and that we must do by examining the clause which is to carry the principle into effect.—The *sixth* section of that act provides that nothing in the act contained, by which ships are required not to depart without convoy, shall extend to any ship or vessel, *which is not required to be ‘ registered by any act or acts of parliament in force on ‘ or immediately before the passing of this act.’* The true question then, is, whether this ship was required to be registered by any statute in force when the convoy act passed. She was foreign built, and purchased previously to the time when the prohibition took place; and in order to ascertain whether she, being *British* owned, be required to be registered, or not, we must look back to our navigation laws.” His Lordship then took a most comprehensive and accurate view of all the navigation laws relating to the registry of shipping, down to the last

(a) Sup. 380.

register acts, 26 G. III. c. 60 and 27 G. III. c. 19. He then said,—“After the best consideration which I have been able to give the *register act*, and after conversing with the noble lord who framed it (a), as well as with the learned author of the treatise to which it gave rise (b), the determination I have come to is, that foreign built ships, in *British* ownership, are not required to be registered, and consequently that this verdict must stand.” His Lordship then examined the several clauses of the register acts, 26 G. III. c. 60, 27 G. III. c. 19, and 34 G. III. c. 68, and said,—“It is not said that ships not registered shall not be navigated or owned by *British* subjects. A *British* owner of a foreign built ship may engage in neutral trade, and will be liable to the alien duties; but it was not the policy of the legislature to prevent *British* subjects from employing foreign ships in neutral trade, in as ample a manner as they can be employed by aliens.”

SECT. VI.

Of the Warranty of Neutrality.

THE cases on this branch of the law of insurance often involve certain rules of the law of nations, which, though formerly considered as indisputable, have, in modern times, and particularly since the period of the *French* revolution, been not only controverted, but even new and contrary principles set up from time to time in opposition to them, as the interest or ambition of certain states has dictated. This has necessarily produced a great variety of decisions since the former impression of this work, which have unavoidably swelled this section beyond its

(a) Lord *Hawkebury*, now Earl of *Liverpool*, to whom his country is highly indebted for the many excellent and judicious regulations he has introduced upon this most important subject.

(b) *John Reeves*, Esq. who has very much promoted the commercial interests of *Great Britain* by his valuable history of the law of shipping and navigation.

ordinary proportion. We will, however, according to our former distribution, consider

- 1st, *The nature of this Warranty;*
- 2dly, *When it shall be falsified by a judgment of condemnation as prize; and,*
- 3dly, *What shall amount to a forfeiture of neutrality.*

1. *The nature of this Warranty.*

As the premium is meant to be proportioned to the nature of the risk, and as the general words of the policy, unless restrained or qualified by some special stipulation, subject the insurer to every loss by capture, it is of importance, in times of war between maritime states, to ascertain whether the ship or goods meant to be insured be liable to capture, as belonging to either of the belligerent powers, or for a forfeiture of neutrality. If the insured profess to be the subject of a neutral state, and mean to be insured as such, the insurer requires him to *warrant* the ship or goods to be neutral property. This is done by inserting in the policy either the words, '*warranted neutral*,' or, '*neutral property*;' and sometimes the thing insured is represented as *belonging to* the subjects of some neutral state, which, of itself, is equivalent to a warranty(a).

How expressed in the policy.

Neutral property, in the sense in which that expression must be understood in this warranty, is that which belongs to the subjects of a state in amity with the belligerent powers.

What shall be deemed neutral property.

But it is of importance to observe that if the subject of a neutral state be domiciled in the dominions of one of the belligerents, and carry on commerce there, though he continue to owe allegiance to his natural sovereign, and may at any time, by returning to his native country, recover all the privileges belonging to a subject of that country; yet, while he resides in the dominions of a belligerent, he contributes to the wealth and strength

The subject of a neutral state domiciled in the dominions of a belligerent, loses the protection of the neutral flag.

(a) *R. Lothian v. Henderson*, 3 Bos. and Pul. 499, inf. As to the manner and time of making such representation, vid. inf. ch. 10. Prelim. Ob.

of such belligerent, and is therefore not entitled to the protection of the neutral flag, and his property shall be deemed enemy's property, and liable to capture as such by the other belligerent.

*Tabbs v. Bende-
lack*, 3 Bosc. and
Pul. 227, n. S.
C. 4 Esp. Rep.
105.

The plaintiff an
American born,
but settled in
England, and
carrying on
commerce there,
purchases an
American ship
regularly docu-
mented in *Ame-
rica*:—This ship
is not neutral to
the purpose of
being protected
by the *American*
flag.

Thus:—The freight of the ship *Franklin*, warranted *American*, was, in *December* 1800, insured 'At and from *Liverpool* to *Naples* or *Sicily*, with leave to discharge at *Leghorn*.'—The ship was captured by the *French*. In an action to recover for this loss, it appeared that the plaintiff was an *American* born, had resided in *America*, and had been employed in navigating ships between this country and *America*; that having married at *Liverpool*, he had from the year 1797 occupied a house there, in which his wife and children resided; that since that time he had once or twice navigated a ship from *Liverpool* to *America*, and back again; but that, during the last year, he had never been out of *England*, but had employed others to navigate his vessels to *America* and elsewhere; that in *October* 1800 he had purchased the *Franklin*, which was an *American* ship, and regularly documented as such, from her owner, an *American*, and had brought her over from *America*; and that when the voyage to which the policy related should be completed, the plaintiff intended to return in her with his family to *America*.—It was contended on the part of the defendant that the warranty was false, in as much as the plaintiff was residing under, and entitled to, the protection of *Great Britain*, and had no right to set up his privilege as an *American* citizen against the adverse belligerent power.—For the plaintiff it was insisted that his residence here was merely temporary; that he had the *animus revertendi*, and was therefore entitled to warrant his ship *American*.—The plaintiff was nonsuited.—Lord *Kenyon*, who tried the cause, said, "Whether the plaintiff has the intention of returning to *America* or not, at a future period, cannot affect the present question. In the policy he has warranted the ship to be *American*; from which warranty the underwriters collected that she was entitled to the privileges of an *American* ship. But whether the ship be entitled to those privileges or not, does not depend merely upon her owner being an *American* born. Persons residing in this country, reaping the advantages

advantages of its trade, contributing to its well-being, must, for the purposes of trade, be considered as belonging to this country. By the law of nations, therefore, the property of such a person is liable to capture by a belligerent on the ground of its belonging to a subject of this country. That rule of law was acted upon in the *St. Eustatia* cases at the *Cockpit*, when Lord Camden, and some of the greatest persons that ever adorned the law of this country, presided there. In the case of the *Argonaut* (a), though we were of opinion that *Collet*, being a native of this country, could not put off his allegiance to it, but might be guilty of high treason against the state; yet we thought that, being domiciled in *America*, he was entitled to the privileges of an *American*."

If the warranty ~~be~~ false at the time it is made, the policy will be void *ab initio*. But the following case shews that it is sufficiently true if the thing insured be neutral property at the time when the policy is effected; the chance of future war being always a risk within the policy.

A Dutch ship and cargo were insured, 'At and from *L'Orient* to *Rotterdam*, both warranted neutral property.'—The ship being captured by an *English* man of war, an action was brought on the policy; and the declaration stated that the defendant subscribed the policy on the 28th of *November* 1780, and averred that the ship and cargo were, at that time, neutral property.—Upon the trial it appeared that the ship sailed from *L'Orient* on the 11th of *December* 1780, and both ship and cargo were then neutral property, and so continued till the 20th of *December*, when, hostilities having commenced between the *English* and the *Dutch*, the ship and cargo ceased to be neutral property, were taken on the 25th of *December*, and condemned as lawful prize.—The court, upon this case, were clearly of opinion, that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The insured warranted the ship and cargo neutral property, and the defendant would have the court to add, by construction, “and so shall continue during the whole voyage.” The contract

It is sufficient
it be true when
made.

Et'n v. Parkinson, *Diaz*. 705.
S. P. ruled in
Saloucci v. Johnson, *Park* 364,
and admitted in
Tyson v. Gurney,
3 T. R. 477.

A ship warranted neutral on the 28th of *November*, sailed on the 11th of *December*. Hostilities commence on the 20th of *December*, and she is captured on the 25th:—This does not falsify the warranty, and the insurer is liable.

(a) *Wilson v. Marryott*, 8 T. R. 31, sup. 63.

The chance of future war is always a risk within the policy.

was not so. The insured told the underwriters what was the state of the ship and goods *then*; and the insurers took upon themselves all future events and risks, from men of war, enemies, detentions of princes, &c. The owners themselves could not have changed the nature of the property; but they did not mean to run the risk of the war. If it would have made a difference to what country the property belonged, the underwriters should have enquired. The risk of future war is undertaken by the insurer in every policy. The warranty is, that things stand so at the time, not that they shall continue so."

2. *When this Warranty shall be falsified by a Judgment of Condemnation as Prize.*

The evidence usually adduced to falsify this warranty, or to prove a breach or forfeiture of neutrality, which amounts to a breach of the warranty, is the judgment or sentence of a court of admiralty, or other court having jurisdiction in questions of prize, by which the ship or goods insured, and warranted neutral property, have been condemned as prize. Copies of the sentence and of the other proceedings in the court of admiralty, properly authenticated, are always deemed sufficient evidence of the fact of the condemnation, and of the grounds upon which it proceeded (a).

Under this head we will consider *first*, what shall be deemed a court of competent jurisdiction in questions of prize; and *secondly*, when the sentence of such court shall be deemed conclusive evidence to falsify the warranty.

First.—What shall be deemed a court of competent jurisdiction in questions of prize.

A sentence, to be binding in England, must be the sentence of a court of competent jurisdiction.

In order that a foreign sentence may be received in our courts as admissible evidence, and possess the authority ascribed to it, the court in which it was pronounced must appear to have been a court lawfully constituted, and of

(a) R. Anon. 9 Mod. 66. R. *Walrend v. Van Mofa*, 8 Mod. 322. Vid. 12 Vin. Ab. 87.

competent jurisdiction in such matters. And therefore, if it appear to have been held under any usurped or illegal authority, or contrary to the law of nations, the sentence will have no validity.

This was determined by the learned judge of our court of admiralty, on the 16th of *January* 1800, in the case of the ship *Flad Oyen*, which had been captured by the *French*, carried into *Bergen* in *Norway*, condemned by the resident consul there, and purchased by a *Danish* subject.—One question before the court of admiralty was, whether a sale under such a sentence of condemnation would transfer the property to the neutral vendee.—Upon this point the learned judge declared that sentences of condemnation always appeared to be the sentences of courts acting, and exercising their judicial functions, in the belligerent country; and that this was the very first attempt that had ever been made to impose upon the court a sentence of a tribunal not existing in the belligerent country, but of a person pretending to be authorized within the dominions of a neutral sovereign; that, even if it could be shewn that, upon mere speculative principles, such a condemnation ought to be deemed sufficient, that would not be enough; for it ought to be shewn that it was agreeable to the usage and practice of nations; “and when I am told,” said he, “that before the present war, no sentence of this kind was ever produced in the annals of mankind, and that it is produced by one nation only in this war, I require nothing more to satisfy me that it is the duty of this court to reject such a sentence as inadmissible.”

Case of the Flad Oyen. 1 Rob. Adm. Rep. 135.

The sentence of a consul of a belligerent power resident in a neutral state, has no authority in our courts.

The ground of this doctrine is, that it shall not be presumed that a neutral government would so far depart from the duties of neutrality, as to permit within its territory the exercise of that last act of hostility, the condemnation of the property of one belligerent to another; thereby confirming and securing him in the acquisition of his enemy's property by hostile means (a).

The ground of this doctrine.

(a) Per Sir *William Scott* in the case of the *Christopher*, 2 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 209.

Recognised in
our courts.

This decision of the court of admiralty, and the reasons on which it was founded, have since been fully approved and adopted by the court of King's Bench in the case of *Havilock v. Rockwood* (a), which will be more particularly noticed hereafter. For the present it will be sufficient to state that it was there determined, that a condemnation by the *French* consul at *Bergen* in *Norway* had not the effect of divesting the property of a captured ship out of the original owner.

Smith v. Surridge, 4 Esp. Rep. 25. Sup 200.

But if the neutral state acquiesce, the condemnation will be valid.

Yet where a *Dutch* ship was captured by the *French*, and condemned by the *French* court of prize sitting at *Bergen*, and sold to a *Danish* subject, and by him sold to the plaintiff, it was objected, in an action on a policy on the ship, that this was no evidence of a legal title in the plaintiff:—But Lord *Kenyon* said, that though the sentence of a *French* court of prize, sitting in a neutral country, had been wisely holden not to change the property; yet, where it had been acquiesced in by that country, it might make a difference; and that, as the property had been regularly brought down to the plaintiff from the time of the sale under the sentence, he was of opinion that it was sufficient evidence of a legal title in him.

But if the ship be carried into the port of a co-belligerent, and while there, be condemned in the state of the captors, the sentence will be valid.

But, with respect to condemnations passed upon ships brought into the ports of an ally in the war, there is a common interest between the co-belligerents on the subject; and both governments may be presumed to authorize any measures conducing to give effect to their arms, and for that purpose to consider each other's ports as mutually subservient to that end.—Therefore, where a *British* ship, captured by the *French*, and carried into the port of *St. Sebastian* in *Spain*, then an ally of *France*, and at war with *Great Britain*, was condemned at *Bayonne* in *France*, the ship still lying in the *Spanish* port, this condemnation was holden to be valid (b). So likewise, where a *British* ship, taken by the *French*, was carried into *Helveetsluys*, and condemned by the *French* commissary of marine at *Rotterdam*, the *United States* then being in

(a) 8 T. R. 268. inf. c. 13. § 2.—(b). Per Sir *William Scott*, in the case of the *Christopher*, 2 Rob. Adm. Rep. 209.

alliance with *France* and at war with *Great Britain*, the legality of this condemnation was admitted by our court of admiralty (a).

Therefore, where an insurance was made on a bottomry bond on the *Froze Anna*, a *Danish* ship, in a voyage from *Penzance* to *Genoa*; and the ship being captured by a *French* privateer, carried into *Malaga*, and there condemned by the *French* consul residing at that place, on the ground of her being *British* property, the court of *King's Bench*, on the authority of the above decisions, determined that the sentence of condemnation was valid and conclusive to prove that the ship was not *Danish*.

Odly v. Bevil,
2 *East* 473.

S. P.

Secondly,—When the sentence of such court shall be deemed conclusive to falsify the warranty.

This is often found to be a very perplexing question. It has produced much litigation, and many decisions, that cannot be easily reconciled or reduced to any well defined principle.

A certain *comitas gentium*, as it has been called, is said to prevail amongst all civilized states, by which the judgments of tribunals having competent jurisdiction, in any one state, are regarded in the courts of all others as conclusive upon the subjects upon which they have been pronounced; and this is now holden to be so binding upon the tribunals of this country, that the decisions of foreign courts of prize are holden to be conclusive upon all points within their jurisdiction, and which they have professed to determine, even though such decisions be manifestly unjust (b).

By comity the sentences of foreign courts are conclusive in ours.

Whether such comity do, in truth, prevail in any other country than our own, I have not been able, after some enquiry, to learn. Certain it is, that the tribunals of *France* never carried their complaisance so far. The

This comity is not universal.

(a) In the case of the *Betsy*, *Kruger*, 2 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 210, n. —(b) Vid. Lord *Kenyon's* judgment in *Guyer v. Aguilar*, 7 *T. R.* 681, inf.

judgments of foreign courts, at least those of the enemies of that country, have there no weight or authority against *Frenchmen*; and therefore every question decided by any foreign, or at least by an enemy's tribunal must, in their courts, be examined and determined *de novo* (a).

Hughes v. Cornelius, Carth. 32,
T. Ray. 473,
Skin. 59. Cited
Show. 143,
Comb. 121.

That the sentence of a foreign court of admiralty is, in our courts, conclusive upon the points within its jurisdiction, and which it professes to decide, was first determined in the court of *King's Bench* in Mich. Term 34 Ch. II. in the case of *Hughes v. Cornelius*, where a ship which had been *Dutch*, but was afterwards made *English*, was taken by the *French* and condemned as a *Dutch prize*. An *English* merchant bought the ship of the *French*, and brought her to *England*, where the original owner claimed her, and brought an action of trover against the purchaser.—But the court gave judgment for the defendant, without suffering the question to be argued; being clearly of opinion that the ship, being legally condemned in *France* as a *Dutch prize*, the court here would not examine the proceedings of the *French* court of admiralty, but give credit to its sentence, and would take it to be according to right. Because it would be very inconvenient if the courts in one kingdom should correct the judgments and proceedings of those of another, and if the original owner were aggrieved, he might petition the king, who, by his ambassador at the court of *France*, might demand that right should be done; if this were refused, he would grant letters of reprisal.

Though the court refused to hear any argument in this case, the reasons given in support of their judgment do not

(a) *Les jugemens rendus par les tribunaux étrangers ne sont en France d'aucun poids contre les Francois. Il faut que la cause y soit de nouveau décidé.—D'ou il suit que le jugement de confiscation, prononcé par un tribunal ennemi, n'est ni une preuve que le véritable pour compte ait été ca: hé, ni un titre que les assureurs puissent alléguer pour se dispenser de payer la perte. Tel: est notre jurisprudence. Emerig. tom 1. p. 458.*

seem very satisfactory. The rule, however, as laid down by them, has been acknowledged to be law, and has been acted upon as such from that time to the present (a). And yet there is a material distinction between that case and the cases to which the rule there laid down has been since so often applied. *France*, at the time *Hughes v. Cornelius* was determined, was in amity with *England*. But the foreign sentences to which our courts have since given so much credit, and which they did not think themselves at liberty to examine, have all been the sentences of *enemies'* tribunals; so that a principal argument in support of the decision in *Hughes v. Cornelius* does not apply to these cases; for if wrong be done by an enemy's tribunal, there can be no redress.

But the judges who adopted this dogma did not foresee all its consequences. Since that case, great and manifest injustice has, in many instances, arisen from it. This has naturally led to exceptions, and these exceptions have unavoidably induced the necessity of reviewing and examining foreign decisions. But it being soon perceived that this would occasion all the trouble and inconvenience which the rule laid down in *Hughes v. Cornelius*, was meant to obviate, the courts, at the apprehension of this, seem to have started back, and to have hastily returned to the original rule. Neutrals have, therefore, to protect themselves against the caprice and injustice of foreign tribunals, resorted, as we shall presently see (b), to the expedient of inserting in their policies an express stipulation that, in case of capture, certain specified proofs of neutrality should be deemed conclusive, notwithstanding any

The consequences of this rule were not at first foreseen.

Stipulations that certain proofs of neutrality shall be conclusive.

(a) All the cases upon the effect of the judgments both of foreign and domestic tribunals will be found in the arguments of Mr. *Wallace* and Mr. *Mansfield* in the *Duchess of Kingston's* case, 11 *Harg. State Tri.* 205, and in the admirable argument of Lord C. J. *De Grey* in the same case, p. 261.—Vid. *Walker v. Witter*, and the notes on that case *Doug.* 3d edition, p. 1. Vid. 12 *Vin. Ab.* 86.—(b) Vid. *Lothian v. Henderson*, 3 *Bos. and Pul.* 449. inf.

foreign sentence of condemnation to the contrary. The examination of these stipulated proofs of neutrality will not be very unlike a revision of foreign sentences.

As to these sentences, this is clear, that if it be adjudged that the ship or goods insured were *enemys' property*, and this appear on the face of the sentence to be the ground of the condemnation, the sentence will be conclusive to falsify the warranty.—So, if the sentence proceed on the ground that the ship did *not* belong to the country specified in the warranty, it will be conclusive, though it express no other ground of condemnation.

Fernandes v. Da Costa, at N. P. after Hil. 4 G. III. *Beauvais*, 314.

If the ground of the sentence do not appear on the face of it, it may be shewn by other evidence.

As where goods were insured on board a ship, warranted *Portuguese*, the plaintiff gave colourable evidence that the ship was *Portuguese*; but that, being obliged, by the perils of the sea, to put into a *French* port, the cargo was spoiled and the loss incurred. This was admitted by the defendant, but he alledged that, while the ship was in the *French* port, she was libelled against, and condemned; and to prove this, he produced the sentence of condemnation, and confirmation thereof, in the courts of prize in *France*, together with an answer of the plaintiff to a bill in Chancery, wherein he had admitted that the ship was condemned as not being *Portuguese*; and he contended, that though the goods were lost by a different peril from that of being enemy's property, yet, that, in fact, the ship was not *Portuguese*, though warranted such, and this vitiated the policy *ab initio*. This was agreed to be law. Lord *Mansfield* said:—"As the sentence was general, and did not express the ground of the condemnation, attested copies of the *libel* ought, in strictness to have been produced, to shew upon what ground the ship was libelled against; but as the plaintiff, by his answer in Chancery, has admitted that the ship was condemned as not being *Portuguese*; this, added to the expression used in the sentence of confirmation, viz. that the ship was condemned in the *court of prizes*, amounts to sufficient evidence to proceed upon." The defendant had a verdict.

But if the sentence be ambiguous, it will not be conclusive.

But if the sentence be ambiguous on the face of it, and there be reason to suppose that it proceeded on a different ground

ground from that of enemy's property, it will not falsify the warranty.

Thus:—An insurance was made upon freight and goods, 'At and from *Venice to London, warranted neutral ship and neutral property.*'—The ship on her voyage was taken by a *French* frigate and condemned. Upon the trial, the defendant produced an attested copy of the sentence of condemnation of the *French* admiralty court, as conclusive evidence to shew that the ship and cargo were not neutral property. 'This sentence, after stating, from the *procès verbal* made when the ship was taken, the capture of the ship, and the endeavour of the captain to avoid coming on board the frigate with the ship's papers, stated, 'that the captain being at last obliged to comply, upon threats being made of firing on him, and being come on board, he declared that, *in getting up the ship's side, the box containing his muster-roll, his patents, and passport, had fallen from his pocket into the sea, and only shewed his bills of lading,* by which it appeared that the ship, commanded by a *Venetian*, sailed from *Venice* with a cargo of silk, raisins, oil, &c. for the account of sundry persons in *Venice* consigned to sundry persons in *London*. That these goods going to an enemy's country, and the loss of his papers raising suspicions, the ship was stopped and sent into *Almeiria*.' The sentence then states that, 'These premises being considered, the ship and cargo are declared good prize, and adjudged to the captors.'—In the course of the argument, an *arrêt* for the regulation of the *French* marine, dated the 26th of *July 1778*, and the *procès verbal* made at the time of the capture, though not proved at the trial, or stated in the case, were much referred to. By this *arrêt*, art. 3. 'All vessels with their cargoes, whether neutral or allied, from which any papers have been thrown into the sea, suppressed or abstracted, shall be declared good prize.' In the *procès verbal* it was expressly stated, 'that the ship's going to an enemy's country, and the loss of her papers, by falling into the sea, raising suspicions, she was stopped in consequence of the third article of this *arrêt*.' It was contended on the part of the plaintiff, that the condemnation was not founded on any proof that the property

Bernardi v. Marteaux, Doug. 554.

The sentence of a *French* court of admiralty stated, 'that the captured ship was on her voyage to an enemy's port with goods consigned to persons there, though stated in the bills of lading to belong to neutrals, and there being reason to suspect that the captain had thrown his papers overboard, therefore the ship and cargo are condemned as prize.'—This being ambiguous, and there appearing reason to suppose that the ground of the sentence was the throwing the papers overboard, contrary to a *French* ordinance, it was held not to be conclusive evidence to falsify the warranty.

property was not neutral, but on the authority of the *arrêt*, on account of the papers having been thrown into the sea. If this had been done wilfully it would have been fraud or barratry in the master, which was one of the risks insured against; but it was no evidence of enemy's property.—For the defendant it was insisted that, though the sentence did not, in words, declare the ship and cargo to have been condemned, *as enemy's property*, which it is not the practice to do; yet, that that appeared from necessary inference to have been the ground of the condemnation; and throwing the papers into the sea *was only evidence* of that fact.—Mr. Justice *Buller* being of opinion that, *on the case as stated, without the procès verbal*, the interpretation of the sentence was, that the condemnation went on the ground of *enemy's property*, it was proposed to the defendant to agree that the *procès verbal* should be made part of the case, which would explain the ambiguity of the sentence; by shewing the *arrêt* to have been the ground of the capture. This was refused by the defendant.—Lord *Mansfield* was of opinion, however, that the justice of the case might still be got at, on the ground of the *ambiguity* of the sentence, which did not mention a word of *enemy's property*; that it was clear the *French* admiralty meant to proceed on the ground of *throwing the papers overboard*; and that the *procès verbal* ought to be considered as part of the proceedings, and that the sentence ought not to have been read without it.—It being alleged by the defendant's counsel, that it would be dangerous to open the sentences of foreign courts of admiralty, which are usually informal; and that the consequence of this decision would be, that, in all cases of this sort, there would be controversies about the ground of the foreign sentence, Lord *Mansfield* said that this supposed inconvenience would be entirely obviated if the foreign courts would say, in their sentences, “*Condemned as enemy's property.*” —Mr. Justice *Willes* and Mr. Justice *Asbhurst* concurred with Lord *Mansfield*, and there was judgment for the plaintiff, Mr. Justice *Buller* still adhering to his former opinion.

In every maritime war, the belligerent powers take upon themselves to make various marine regulations, adapted to their own respective situations and interests; but often contrary to the law of nations, and inconsistent with the independence of other states. And though it may be prudent for the subjects of neutral states, which are unable, or unwilling, to contend with such belligerent powers, to conform to these regulations, for their own safety, yet it seems to be now settled, that they are not bound by them; and therefore, a condemnation avowedly grounded on the non-observance of them, will not amount to proof of the forfeiture of the warranty.

As where a ship, warranted *Portuguese*, was taken by a *French* privateer, and condemned, “because she had an *English* supercargo on board.” — It appeared that the *French* government had lately made an ordinance, declaring all ships liable to capture, where the supercargo was the subject of a state at war with *France*. — The plaintiff obtained a verdict, and upon a motion for a new trial, the court determined that the warranty was not falsified by this condemnation, and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover. — Lord *Mansfield* said: — “This is an arbitrary and oppressive regulation, contrary to the law of nations. But as neither the insured nor the underwriters knew any thing of it, neither of them was guilty of any fault. If the insured had known of it, he might have taken care to conform to it: If the underwriters had known of it, they ought to have enquired who was to be supercargo. Both, however, being innocent, the underwriters, who take the risk upon themselves, ought to be liable for the loss. It must be a fraudulent concealment to vitiate a policy. It is remarkable that neither party has said any thing of the treaties between *France* and *Portugal*.”

This last observation shews that if the having an *English* supercargo on board had been contrary to any subsisting treaty between *France* and *Portugal*, the condemnation would have been just, and the sentence conclusive, to shew a forfeiture of the ship's neutrality. The following decision will serve to confirm this doctrine.

But neutrals are not bound to take notice of regulations made by belligerents contrary to the law of nations.

Mayne v. Walter,
Br R. East. 22
G. III. MS.

A ship warranted *Portuguese* is condemned by the *French*, because she had an *English* supercargo on board, contrary to a *French* ordinance: This ordinance being contrary to the law of nations, the sentence does not falsify the warranty.

But if a ship be not navigated according to the subsisting treaties, she will forfeit her neutrality.

A ship

*Barzillay v
Lewis, B. R.
Tinn. 12 C. III.
MS.*

A ship warranted
Dutch, is con-
demned because
she had not the
necessary docu-
ments to prove
her to be such,
according to the
treaty of Utrecht:
—This falsifies
the warranty.

A ship was insured from *Liverpool* to *Amsterdam*, 'war-
'ranted Dutch property,' and was captured by the French,
carried into *St. Maloes*, and there released as being Dutch
property; but upon appeal to the council of state at *Paris*,
she was condemned as prize, by the name of *The Three Graces*
of *Liverpool*.—It appeared that the ship had been originally
a French privateer, called *L' Aimable Agathée*, which was
taken by an English privateer, and carried into *Liverpool*; and
being condemned, she there got the new name of *The Three*
Graces. A merchant at *Liverpool* bought her for a house
at *Amsterdam*, from whence a Dutch pass or sea-brief was
sent for her, translating her new name into Dutch, ac-
cording to the treaty of *Utrecht*. She sailed from *Liver-*
pool, under a Dane, who was her captain, and a crew,
consisting of 16, of whom five were French, who had
been prisoners of war, and were returning home, four
Danes, two Swedes, one Dutch, one Portuguese, one Ham-
burger, one Norwegian, and one Irish. It appeared in
evidence that by a French ordinance it was provided,
'That ships originally belonging to the enemy, and pur-
'chased by neutrals, are not considered as domiciled till
'they have been within some port of the neutral nation;
and, 'that a pass should be deemed fraudulent, unless the
'ship had been in the port from whence it had been ob-
'tained.' And, by another ordinance, two-thirds of the
crew were required to be subjects of the neutral state.
Some of the crew swore they were hired by *Englishmen*,
and that both ship and cargo were *English*; that when
the ship, which took them, came in sight, the captain sailed
back towards the *English* coast: But one of the crew hav-
ing informed him that the ship in sight carried *English* co-
lours, he resumed his course.—Upon this case it was de-
termined, that the decree of the court of appeal was conclu-
sive to falsify the warranty.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The
warranty meant that the ship was Dutch, to the purpose of be-
ing protected; and the sentence of the court of appeal in
France is conclusive. The question then is, what the sentence
means. The ship is condemned as not being Dutch.
The warranty was, that she was Dutch, which was false.
The law of nations is founded in eternal principles of
justice.

justice.—But in every war the belligerent powers make particular regulations for themselves, which being no part of, or, perhaps, repugnant to the law of nations, do not bind other states: But other states, though not bound by them, must take notice of them for their own safety. In this case the insured warranted the ship to be *Dutch*, and they knew they must conform to the marine regulations of *France*. The insurers took the risk upon this warranty; but when it is sifted in the *French* courts, it turns out that she has not the requisites of a *Dutch* ship. She had not been in a *Dutch* port; and her sea-brief or passport was not in the form prescribed by the treaty of *Utrecht*; and appears to have been made on the oath of the captain. In fact she had none of the requisites of a *Dutch* ship. If the sentence had gone on a ground collateral to the property, the plaintiff would have been permitted to go into evidence to shew the truth of the warranty; and so it was holden in *Mayne v. Walter (a)*: But this condemnation went on the ground that she was not completely documented, as a *Dutch* ship."

Neutrals ought, for their own safety, to take notice of the regulations made by the belligerents though repugnant to the law of nations.

The doctrines contained in the two foregoing cases seem, at first sight, to be rather at variance: But a little attention will shew that there is a material difference between the circumstances of each. In the latter, supposing the ship to have been *Dutch* property, the owner, if not bound to know the regulations made in *France* on the subject of *Dutch* ships, ought at least to have known what documents every *Dutch* ship was bound to have, by the treaty of *Utrecht*, to which the states of *Holland* were parties. And it must be taken as a rule, that the party warranting must be completely documented. Lord *Mansfield*, it is true, says that though other states are not bound by the particular regulations made by belligerent powers, against the law of nations, yet *they must take notice of them*, for their own safety; and from this expression it might be reasonably inferred that he was of opinion that the non-observance of these regulations would amount to a forfeiture of neutrality. But he expressly says, that the ground of the condemnation in that

The two last cases reconciled, and the result of both stated.

(a) Sup. 397.

case was, that the ship was not completely documented, as a *Dutch* ship, according to the treaty of *Utrecht*.—In the former case, there was no defect of documents: The only ground of the condemnation was the non-compliance with a *French* regulation, then lately made against the common rights of all nations. To this regulation the *Portuguese* were no parties; and the insured were not more likely to be informed of it than the underwriters—The result, however, of Lord *Mansfield's* opinions delivered in both cases, seems to be, that when a belligerent makes particular marine regulations for its own benefit, affecting neutral states, but repugnant to the law of nations; there, though those neutral states are not obliged to observe them, yet, as it must be supposed that the power which made them, is determined, at all hazards, to enforce them, it is the duty of an insured, who warrants his ship or goods to be neutral property, if he has any knowledge of such regulations, to conform to them; in order to make himself a neutral ‘to the purpose of being protected;’ or at least to disclose to the underwriters his inability or disinclination to conform to them.—And if the insurer, on the other hand, has any knowledge of these regulations, he ought to warn the insured of his danger, and inform himself whether the insured means to conform to them. But if neither has any knowledge of them, a condemnation of a foreign court of admiralty, founded on the breach of them, will not prove a forfeiture of the warranty.

If the insurer know of such regulations, he should apprise the insured of his danger. But if both are ignorant of them, a foreign sentence of condemnation for not conforming to them, will not be conclusive.

Some time after these decisions, a case (*a*) came before Lord *Kenyon* at *nisi prius*, in which he ruled that a sentence of condemnation, by a foreign court of admiralty, was conclusive against the warranty, though founded on the mere want of a document required by an ordinance which was not binding upon any neutral state. But this decision has been since overruled, and the learned judge himself afterwards candidly declared his disapprobation of it (*b*). As it cannot, therefore, be now considered as any authority, it is unnecessary to take any further notice of it in this place.

(*a*) *De Souza v. Ewer*, P 360. — (*b*) Vid. 8 T. R. 444, n.

Lord *Mansfield*, in the case of *Fernandes v. Da Costa*, seems to have thought that, where it does not appear on the face of the sentence, that the condemnation proceeded on the ground that the thing insured was enemy's property, other evidence might be resorted to, in order to have that ascertained. But in a subsequent case, it was determined that where a ship is condemned generally *as good prize*, the sentence alone is conclusive evidence that the property was not neutral, though no special ground appear on the face of it.

A sentence of condemnation generally *as good prize*, is conclusive, without stating any ground.

Thus:—Goods were insured on board the *Thetis*, a *Tuscan* ship, “*warranted neutral*.”—The ship was taken and carried into *Spain*, and there condemned “*as good and lawful prize*;” but the sentence stated *no ground* upon which it proceeded. This sentence was appealed from and reversed; but, upon a farther appeal, the latter sentence was reversed, and the former confirmed. Lord *Mansfield*, upon the trial, was of opinion that the sentence of the *Spanish* court of admiralty was conclusive evidence to falsify the warranty, and nonsuited the plaintiff.—This decision, upon a motion to set aside the nonsuit, was confirmed by the whole court.—Lord *Mansfield* said,—“The warranty is, that the goods are neutral. It must be presumed, from the condemnation, as no other cause appears, that it proceeded on the ground of their being *enemy's property*. In the case of *Bernardi v. Motteux* (a), the decision turned on the particular ground of the condemnation appearing on the face of the sentence, which shewed that it was not that of enemy's property; and for this reason the plaintiff was permitted to shew by evidence that the specific ground was really the cause of the condemnation. The counsel admitted the general rule, but at the trial said, that the special cause would appear upon the proceedings, if they could be had. The proceedings are now here, and shew that the question turned entirely upon the property of the goods; for the second court decreed that the *goods were free*, but the last court re-

Salouci v. Wood-
w. 1811, B. R. Hll.
24 G. III. MS.

(a) Sup. 395.

versed that decree. It is sufficient, however, that no special ground is stated."

If the sentence do not necessarily falsify the warranty, its truth may be proved.

Calvert v. Bouil,
7 T. R. 523.

Goods warranted American were insured from London to Virginia; and a foreign court, after reciting that 'the true destination of the ship was to the British West Indies, having been hired and loaded at London, and having on board 80 barrels of gunpowder,' declares the ship and cargo good prize:—This is not conclusive against the warranty; and the court here may receive evidence to prove the truth of it.

Where the special grounds of condemnation set forth in the sentence do not necessarily negative the warranty, the court may receive evidence to prove the truth of the warranty.

Thus:—The goods and private adventure of the captain, warranted *American* property, were insured on board the ship *Friends*, 'At and from London to Virginia.'—It appeared that the property of the goods was in the plaintiff who was an *American*; that the ship was *American* built, and manned by *American* sailors; had been consigned by the owners in *Virginia* to their correspondents in *London*, upon the voyage insured, having all necessary papers on board to shew that she was an *American* ship; that the real place of her destination was *Norfolk* in *Virginia*, to which port she belonged; that, in the course of her voyage, having met with tempestuous weather, and being much damaged, she was obliged, from distress, to bear away to some port in the *West Indies*, that in her course thither she was captured by a *French* privateer, and carried into *Guadaloupe*, where she was condemned by a sentence of the court of commerce there, expressed, as to the matter in judgment, in these terms: 'Forasmuch as the true destination of the said vessel was for the *English* islands, having been hired and loaded at *London*, and as there have been found on board her eighty barrels of gunpowder (a); the court declares the said brig *Friends* a good prize for the benefit of the captors, together with her tackle, apparel, cargo, &c.'—The court determined, that this sentence was not conclusive evidence to falsify the warranty; and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“That the justice and honesty of the case are with the plaintiff, is beyond all doubt; and that the ship was *American*, and the goods the property of an *American*, is equally clear. But it is contended, that though, in point of fact, this

(a) This was part of the captain's adventure, the rest of the cargo consisting of slops, porter, cheese, and ship chandlery.

be true, yet the sentence of condemnation precludes the plaintiff from asserting it. I yield to the cases cited, which shew that, to a certain degree, this court will support the proceedings of foreign courts by presuming that their sentences are just; and I will not make any exception, at present, of the proceedings of the *French* courts of admiralty. But when an attempt is made to pervert the justice of the case, it becomes necessary for us to see whether the decision of the court at *Guadaloupe* has so determined on the fact of neutrality, that we cannot examine into it. It has been said, that nothing can justify the sentence of the *French* court of admiralty, but the fact that this was *British* property. But that is a conclusion against all the facts proved in the case. If, indeed, that court had stated in their sentence, that they condemned the goods, *because* they were *British* property, I should have considered myself bound by their sentence. But they have, themselves, assigned other reasons for their adjudication. The express grounds of the sentence are, that the ship was destined for one of the *West India* islands; that she was hired and loaded at *London*; and that she had a certain quantity of gunpowder on board; *therefore*, they condemned her and her cargo as good prize. Then it is impossible for us to conclude that the *French* court decided on the ground that this was *British* property, when all the evidence in the cause, and the reasons expressly given by them for their judgment, lead to a contrary conclusion."—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“The cases alluded to in the argument seem to have established this, that if it can be collected from the sentence itself, on what ground the foreign court decided, that would be conclusive in any action brought in this country: But if it were ambiguous, or did not shew on the face of it, on what ground they proceeded, then the court here might receive evidence to shew what were the grounds of the decision abroad.”

So great, however, in our courts, is the authority of the sentence of a foreign court of admiralty, that if it be there decided that a ship or goods are *enemy's property*, such sentence, though manifestly unjust, will be received as conclusive evidence to disprove the warranty.

But a condemnation, as *enemy's property*, is conclusive, though manifestly unjust.

Geyer v. Aguilar,
7 T. R. 631.

A ship warranted American, is condemned as enemy's property, for not having on board a list of the crew, required by an ordinance of France, and adjudged to be requisite within the meaning of the treaty between France and America:—The sentence is conclusive against the warranty, though in fact the ship and cargo were American property.

Thus:—The freight of the ship *Rainbow* was insured, 'At and from Charlestown to London, warranted American property.'—In an action on this policy, brought to recover a loss by capture, it appeared that the plaintiff, who was an American, resident at Charlestown, was the sole owner of the ship, which took in a cargo at that place upon freight for the voyage to London; that she sailed on this voyage under the command of *William Smith*, a naturalized subject of the *United States*, and was captured by a *French* privateer, carried into *Nantz*, and there condemned and sold; that she had on board all necessary papers and documents, except a certified *role d'equipage* or list of her crew.—On the part of the defendant was produced a sentence of condemnation, by the commercial tribunal at *Nantz*, which, after stating at great length the mutual allegations of the parties, concludes to the following effect: 'Considering that the decree of the *Executive Directory*, of the 12th *Ventose* last, declares lawful prize all American ships not having a list of their crews, conformably to the model annexed to the treaty of February 1778, between France and America, and that there was not on board the *Rainbow* such a list of the crew, but only a sea letter, on the back of which was an agreement subscribed by only seven of the crew; and that the captain produced only bills of lading without signature,—the tribunal therefore adjudges the validity of the capture and confiscation of the ship and cargo, the whole being, for want of captain *Smith's* having the papers, in due form, decreed to belong to the enemies of the republic.'—The ordinance of October 1744 was produced, declaring all ships prize which should have on board any officer, a subject of the enemy's country; or which should not have on board a muster roll of the crew attested by the proper officer of the neutral port of departure. The treaty of February 1778, between France and the *United States* was also produced, the 12th, 25th, and 27th articles of which require that, when either power is at war, the ships of the other shall be obliged to carry passports, and certificates to shew that the goods on board are not contraband; also a list of the crew, containing their names, places of birth and abode.—It

was

was admitted that, previously to the capture of this and other ships for want of the *role d'équipage*, no such roll had ever been deemed necessary; but that, since then, they have been in use.—The question, upon this case was, whether the sentence of condemnation, connected with the treaty and the *French* ordinances, were to be deemed conclusive against the truth of the warranty. The court determined, that as the *French* court had concluded, from the evidence, that this was *enemy's property*, and as that judgment was binding upon the courts here, they were obliged to draw the same conclusion; and that therefore, as the property warranted to be *American* property, must now be taken not to have been such, the plaintiff could not recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said, —“ We come to decide this case bound and shackled by certain rules from which we dare not depart. The acts of pirates are to be treated as the acts of pirates: They do not profess to have any civil code of laws by which they are to be restrained. But civilized nations profess to be governed by certain rules; and the comity due from the courts in one country to those of another, induces them to give credit to each other's acts (*a*); and so we must continue to act in this country, until the legislature shall think fit to forbid it. I admit the cases of *Mayne v. Walter* (*b*), and *Saloucci v. Johnson* (*c*), up to their extent. I admit that, if a foreign court of admiralty proceed on grounds contrary to the law of nations, its judgments ought not to have weight in the courts of this country. But the ground on which the *French* court proceeded in this case was, that this was a capture of *enemy's property*; and it certainly is not contrary to the law of nations to condemn a ship on that ground. Whether or not those courts arrived at that conclusion by proper means, I am not at liberty to enquire. Here the question is, whether they have not stated, as the foundation of the condemnation, a ground which will not bear them out, supposing it to be true; and I am clearly satisfied that they have. They concluded from the evidence that

(*a*) Vid. Sup. 391.—(*b*) Sup. 397.—(*c*) Sup. 387.

this was enemy's property ; not, indeed, in the formal language of our courts of justice, but they say, in substance, " We think this is enemy's property, and therefore we condemn the ship and cargo." Now that concludes this case ; for as long as the foreign judgments are binding upon us, the conclusion that we must draw from the judgments of the *French* court, in this case, is, that the property which was warranted to be *American*, is found by those judgments not to have been *American* property. I feel this, however, as the grossest injustice towards the *Americans*. The *French* courts seem, in this instance, to have proceeded on *Algerine*, nay, on worse principles ; because they professed to have proceeded according to law, but in reality made the law a stalking-horse for an act of piracy. But I cannot now question the legality of their decision : I am bound to decide according to law. It is my duty *jus dicere, non jus dare*."

The warranty is that the ship shall be neutral to the purpose of being protected.

The meaning of the warranty is, that the ship or goods insured shall be not only the *property* of neutral persons, but also that they shall be neutral *to the purpose of being protected*. The ship must therefore be navigated according to the law of nations ; and she must be furnished with all the documents and papers which are the evidences of her neutrality, and of her observance of the regulations of particular treaties to which she is bound to conform.

Documents requisite for neutral ships.

It may be proper, in this place, to specify the various documents and papers, which are generally expected to be found on board of every neutral ship : These are, (a)

Passport, sea-brief, or sea-letter.

1. THE PASSPORT, SEA-BRIEF, OR SEA-LETTER.—This is a permission from the neutral state to the captain or master of the ship to proceed on the voyage proposed ; and usually contains his name and residence, the name, property, description, tonnage, and destination of the ship ; the nature and quantity of the cargo, the place from whence it comes, and its destination ; with such other matters as the practice of the place requires.—This document is indispensably necessary for the safety of every

(a) Vid. *Hubner de la sais. des bat. neut.* par. 2. ch. 3. § 10. vol. 1. p. 242.—(b) *Ubi sup.*

neutral ship. *Hubner* (a) says, that it is the only paper which is rigorously insisted upon by the *Barbary* corsairs; by the production of which alone, their friends are protected from insult.

2. THE PROOFS OF PROPERTY.—These ought to shew that the ship really belongs to the subjects of a neutral state. If she appear to either belligerent to have been built in the enemy's country, proof is generally required that she was purchased by the neutral before, or captured and legally condemned and sold to the neutral after, the declaration of war; and in the latter case, the *bill of sale*, properly authenticated, ought to be produced.—Even *Hubner* (a) admits, that these proofs are so essential to every neutral vessel, for the prevention of frauds, that such as sail without them, will have no reason to complain if they are interrupted in their voyages, and their neutrality even disputed.

Proofs of property.

3. THE MUSTER ROLL.—This, which the *French* call *Rôle d'équipage*, contains the names, ages, quality, place of residence, and above all, *the place of birth*, of every person of the ship's company.—This document is of great use in ascertaining a ship's neutrality. It must naturally excite a strong suspicion if the majority of the crew be found to consist of foreigners; still more if they be natives of the enemy's country.

Muster Roll.

4. THE CHARTER-PARTY.—Where the ship is chartered, this instrument serves to authenticate many of the facts on which the proof of her neutrality must rest, and should therefore be always found on board chartered ships.

Charter-party.

5. THE BILLS OF LADING.—By these the captain acknowledges the receipt of the goods specified therein, and promises to deliver them to the consignee or his order. Of this there are usually several duplicates; one of which is kept by the captain, one by the shipper of the goods, and one transmitted to the consignee.—This instrument, being only the evidence of a private transaction between the owner of the goods and the captain,

Bills of lading.

(a) *Ubi sup.*

does not carry with it the same degree of authenticity as the charter-party.

Invoices.

6. THE INVOICES.—These contain the particulars and prices of each parcel of goods, with the amount of the freight, duties, and other charges thereon, which are usually transmitted from the shippers to their factors or consignees.—These invoices prove by whom the goods were shipped, and to whom consigned. They carry with them, however, but little authenticity, being easily fabricated where fraud is intended.

Log-book.

7. THE LOG-BOOK, or ship's journal.—This contains a minute account of the ship's course, with a short history of every occurrence during the voyage.—If this be faithfully kept, it will throw great light on the question of neutrality; if it be in any respect fabricated, the fraud may in general be easily detected.

Bill of health.

8. THE BILL OF HEALTH.—This is a certificate properly authenticated, that the ship comes from a place where no contagious distemper prevails, and that none of the crew, at the time of her departure, were infected with any such distemper.—It is generally found on board of ships coming from the *Levant*, or from the coast of *Barbary*, where the plague so frequently prevails.

But the want of any of these is only presumptive evidence against neutrality.

Upon the subject of the ship's documents, it is to be observed that, though, by the law of nations, the want of some of these papers may be taken as strong *presumptive evidence*; yet, the want of none of them amounts to *conclusive evidence* against a ship's neutrality.

A ship warranted neutral must be navigated according to the treaties by which she is bound.

It has already been said, that a ship warranted neutral, must be neutral *to the purpose of being protected*; she must therefore be navigated, not only according to the law of nations, but also in conformity to the particular treaties subsisting between the country to which she belongs and each of the belligerent states. A ship warranted neutral must therefore, in order to fulfil the warranty, not only belong to the subjects of some neutral state, but also have all the requisites to entitle her to the privileges and immunities of ships belonging to that state. The want of any of these, *for any part of the voyage insured*, though it only subject

subject the ship to *search and detention*, will discharge the insurer.

Thus:—An insurance was made on the ship *Atlantic*, At and from *London* to *Guernsey*, from thence to the coast of *Africa*, during her stay and trade there, and at and from thence to her port or ports of discharge in all or any of the *British West India islands* and *America*; the ship and goods on board warranted *American* property.'

—In an action on this policy to recover a loss by capture, it appeared, that the *Atlantic* was an *American* ship, the property of the plaintiff, a native and citizen of the *United States*, and that the goods on board were *American* property; that, by the treaty of 1778, between *France* and the *United States*, it was agreed, 'That the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects of either ally, should be furnished with sea letters or passports, in a form prescribed, expressing the name, property, and bulk of the ship, and the name and place of habitation of the master; and that, if the ships of the subjects of either ally should be met with at sea by the ships of war of the other, such ships of war, for the avoiding of any disorder, should remain out of cannon shot, and might send their boats on board the neutral merchant ship, to the number of two or three men only, to whom the master of such ship should exhibit his passport; and that such ship, on shewing such passport, should be at liberty to pursue her voyage, so as it should not be lawful to molest, search, or give chase to her, or force her to quit her intended course.' That when the ship sailed from *London* for *Guernsey*, this country was at war with *France*; but she had not then on board any passport, made out according to the form prescribed by the treaty; but that when she sailed from *Guernsey*, and until her capture, she had such passport on board, which was exhibited to the captain of the privateer at the time of her capture.—The only question was, whether the warranty, *that the ship and goods were American property*, had been complied with.—The court were clearly of opinion that it was not complied with; and therefore, that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—

“ Nothing

Rich v. Parker,
7 T. R. 705.
S. C. 2 Esp. Rep.
615.

A ship insured from *A.* to *B.* and from thence to *C.* and *D.*, warranted *American* property, sails from *A.* to *B.* without the passport required by the treaty between *France* and *America*.

At *B.* she procures such a passport, but is afterwards captured by the *French* on her passage to *C.*—The insured cannot recover for this loss; though at the time of the capture, the proper passport was on board, and though the ship ought not to have been condemned by the *French* as prize; because she did not sail with all requisites to entitle her to the privileges of an *American* ship.

If a ship insured be not in a proper condition for sailing, during only a part of the voyage, nothing that happens afterwards can better her original situation.

“ Nothing can be clearer than this, that if a ship insured be not sea-worthy, or in a proper condition for sailing, during any part of the voyage, nothing that happens afterwards can better her original situation. By the treaty between *France* and *America*, it is agreed that the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects of either ally must be furnished with sea-letters or passports. Now I think the warranty in this policy, that the ship was *American* property, is not satisfied merely by shewing that in fact she was *American* property. When these parties entered into the contract of insurance, the underwriter was to be indemnified to a certain extent under this warranty. The ship was not only not to be liable to risks arising from her not being *American* property, but she was not to be liable to any inconvenience or impediment in her voyage, from her not being in the condition required by the treaty with *France*. The question here is, whether or not this ship was in such a situation as to be entitled to all the privileges of an *American* flag: I think she was not. It is true, perhaps, that the *French* had no right to confiscate the ship for not having the passport on board, if in fact it were proved that she was an *American* ship. But, under the terms of this treaty, the *French* had a right to do certain acts which they could not have done, according to the treaty, if the passport had been on board; for then the *French* ships were not to come within cannon shot, nor to chase or drive her out of her course; and they were not to send more than two or three men on board. This negative implies an affirmative, that in case she had no passport on board, the *French* would have been guilty of no infraction of the treaty, if they had forced this ship out of her course. By this contract it is intended that the underwriter should not be liable to such risks: But the ship was in fact subject to these risks and inconveniences through the neglect of the insured, because he did not do all that was required by the treaty. Might not this ship have been carried into a *French* port, and the voyage thereby delayed for want of this passport, though, perhaps, ultimately she would not have been liable to confiscation? And is not that a greater risk than the underwriter

If a ship, for want of a necessary document, subject herself to detention, she forfeits her neutrality.

derwriter engaged to insure against, in the case of a ship warranted *American*? It is true that the loss did not happen in consequence of the ship's not having a passport, but still the underwriter was put to greater risk than he would have been put to, if the ship had had this document on board."—Mr. Justice *Ashurst* said,—“The warranty that the ship was *American* does not merely mean that she was *American-built*, but that she was entitled to all the privileges and immunities of an *American* ship, otherwise it makes a difference in the value of the risk; and, to entitle her to these privileges, she ought to have had a passport; and if the underwriter had been informed that she could not have one on board, in the first part of the voyage from *London* to *Guernsey*, perhaps he would not have insured for the same premium.—Mr. Justice *Grose* thought the principle established in the cases of *De Hahn v. Hartley* (a), and *Barzillay v. Lewis* (b) must decide this.—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said,—“The finding of the jury, “that the ship was *American* “property,” did not amount to a finding that the warranty had been *complied with*. If the meaning of the warranty was, that the ship was entitled to all the privileges of an *American* flag, which I think the fair construction of the policy, then the warranty has not been complied with.”

A warranty that a ship is neutral does not merely mean that she was built in the neutral state, but that she is entitled to all the immunities of the ships of that state.

But though the sentence of a foreign court of admiralty possess such great authority in our courts, that it is constantly received as conclusive evidence, as to the points which it professes to decide, yet it must be observed that its authority is confined to those points alone; and nothing but the matters *expressly decided* can be taken as incontrovertible. A fact, therefore, *recited* in such sentence, though it be a part of the premises on which the adjudication is founded, is not considered as *adjudged*, and therefore not conclusive.

The sentence is only conclusive as to the points, which it professes to decide.

Thus:—Goods were insured on board the *Mercury*; ‘from *Virginia* to *Bremen*.’—In an action on the policy

Christie v. Serretan, 8 T. R. 192.

Goods are insured on board an *American* ship, but which is not warranted,

(a) Sup. 34^f.—(b) Sup. 398.

as such. The ship is captured by the *French*, and the sentence, premising that her papers were defective and irregular, and not conformable to treaty, concludes that on this account she is looked upon as belonging to the enemies of the *French* republic;—As the ship is not adjudged to be deficient in the proper documents, but only that she belonged to the enemies of the republic; this is not conclusive to prove that she was not properly navigated.

to recover a loss by capture, it appeared that the *Mercury* was an *American* ship; but no warranty was made to any of the underwriters on the subject: On the contrary, the broker, though he spoke of the ship as an *American*, told the underwriters that he was directed not to warrant any thing; that the ship had on board, however, at the time of the capture, all such papers and documents as are usually carried on board *American* ships, or which the *French* themselves deemed necessary in former voyages. She had a muster roll, but not signed or certified by any public officer of the place from which she sailed. The ship being carried into *Nantz*, was there condemned by the *Commercial Tribunal* in the following sentence: ‘Considering that the 4th article of the 3d *Brumaire*, 4th year, declares good prize, all *American* ships which shall not have on board a muster-roll in the form annexed to the treaty of the 6th of *February* 1778, and that the muster-roll of the *Mercury* is not conformable to that, or to the forms prescribed by the decree of the *Directory* of the 12th *Ventose*, 4th year, being neither dated or signed by any public officer of the *United States*: Considering that the bill of lading of 255 hogsheads of tobacco found on board, was not signed by the captain, contrary to the 9th article of the *Marine Ordinances*, whereby it is declared that all vessels on board whereof no charter-party, bills of lading, or invoices, are found, shall be decreed good prize, together with their cargoes; as also the 9th article of the ordinances of 1744, declaring all bills of lading not signed null and void: Considering that there were other goods on board, of which there were no bills of lading or invoice; that the captain has produced no *American* protection, and that he is an *Irishman*, and has a wife and children in *Ireland*; the tribunal adjudges and declares the validity of the prize of the ship *Mercury*, and the goods on board, for want of the dispatches and sea-papers of the captain being in regular order; on which account, she is looked upon as belonging to the enemies of the *French* republic.’—On the part of the defendant it was contended that there was an implied warranty in every contract of insurance, that the ship should

should be navigated according to the laws of the country to which she belonged, and to which she was going (a); that though there was no warranty that this was an *American* ship, yet that, being in fact *American*, she ought to have been documented as such, and that for the want of the muster-roll properly signed, as required by the above treaty, she was condemned (b).—But the court determined that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“In deciding this case, I do not mean to deny that the ship must be navigated, not only according to the law of nations, but also according to the particular treaties that subsist between the country to which she belongs, and other countries. The short ground of my opinion is, that the sentence of a court of admiralty is only conclusive on the points which it professes to decide; and the only question here is, what point the court of admiralty has decided? Now the sentence recites many facts into which it is not necessary to enquire; but the sole reason given for the adjudication at the concluding part, does not affect the case before us. The condemnation is expressed to be, not because the ship had not the proper documents on board, but because she belonged to the enemies of the *French* republic. But that does not release the underwriters from their responsibility. If there had been a warranty that the ship was *American* (c), this sentence would have falsified it.”

In the following case, which was decided upon great consideration, and upon a review of all the former authorities on this point, the line has been ably and accurately drawn between those sentences of foreign courts of admiralty, which must be taken to be conclusive against the warranty, and those which are not so, but leave the question of neutrality open for discussion in our courts.

An insurance was made on goods on board the ship *Juliana*, ‘warranted a *Dane*,’ at and from *London* to

Pollard v. Bell,
8 T. R. 343.

(a) Vid. *Law v. Hollingworth*, 7 T. R. 687, sup. 165, and *Farmer v. Legg*, 7 T. R. 186, sup. 178.—(b) Vid. sup. 385, and *Lothian v. Henderson*, inf.—(c) It is now holden that merely representing the thing insured as belonging to the subjects of a neutral state, is, of itself, equivalent to a warranty. Vid. *Lothian v. Henderson*, *Pul. 3. & Rel. 499*, inf.

A ship warranted *Danish* is condemned because the captain was an ‘enemy.’—This sentence not being founded on the ground that the ship was

Teneriffe.

not a *Danish* ship, but only because she had been navigated contrary to a *French* ordinance, does not falsify the warranty.

Teneriffe.—In an action on this policy to recover for a loss by capture, it appeared that the *Juliana* was a *Danish* ship, the property of *Danish* subjects; that she sailed from *Copenhagen* to *London*, and there took on board the goods on which the insurance was made; that from thence she sailed on the voyage insured, was captured by a *French* privateer, and carried into *Bordeaux*, having then on board every document usually carried by *Danish* ships; that the master was a native of *Scotland*, not naturalized in *Denmark*; but, that, on the 6th of *October* 1794, posterior to the war between *England* and *France*, he obtained letters of burghership in *Denmark*, but had no domicile there; that the ship and cargo were condemned as prize by the tribunal of commerce of *Bordeaux*, and this sentence was confirmed, upon appeal, by the civil tribunal of *La Gironde*. In these two sentences were recited several *French* ordinances, particularly one in 1778, by which it is declared that all ships shall be confiscated, “wherever there shall be found
“on board a supercargo, merchant, commissary, or chief
“officer, being an enemy;” and it appeared that the ship was ultimately condemned for a violation of that ordinance, the captain being a *Scotchman*. Upon appeal to the supreme tribunal of cassation at *Paris*, the former sentences were confirmed, upon the ground that the master was born in *Scotland*, and an enemy; and that, as his denization in a neutral country was not justified according to law, his quality of enemy sufficed to legitimate the prize, and he was condemned to pay a fine of 150 francs.—The court were unanimously of opinion, that the warranty was not falsified by these sentences, and that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said, —“It is true that the meaning of the warranty was not merely that the ship was *Danish* built, but that she should be circumstanced during the voyage as a *Danish* ship ought to be. This is one of the numberless questions that have arisen in consequence of the extraordinary sentences of condemnation passed by courts of admiralty in *France* during this war, which have all proceeded on a system of plunder. But still, until the legislature interferes on this subject, we, sitting in a court of law, are bound to give credit to the sentences of courts of competent jurisdiction.

Though the sentence of a foreign court of admiralty be founded on a system of plunder, yet our courts are bound to give credit to them.

tion. If, therefore, in this instance, the *French* courts had condemned this ship, on the ground that she was not *Danish* property, we should have been concluded by that sentence in this action, and must, however reluctantly, have given judgment for the defendant. This is proved by the different authorities, and supported by reason. The courts of admiralty profess to proceed on the law of nations, and such treaties as particular states have agreed shall be ingrafted on that law. But I concur with Lord *Mansfield* in opinion, that it is not competent to any individual state to add to the law of nations by its own arbitrary ordinances, without the concurrence of other states (a). That is the ground on which this case must be decided. Now let us see what was the foundation of the condemnation in the *French* courts? It is stated in one of the sentences, that, by their own ordinances, all ships are to be confiscated, whensoever on board these ships "shall be found a supercargo, merchant, commissary, or "chief officer, being an enemy." But I say that they had no right, by making such an ordinance, to bind other nations. Then, was the ship in question condemned on the ground that she was not *Danish* property? Certainly not. It appears clear beyond all doubt that she was at least condemned on the ground that the captain was one of those persons whom by their own ordinances only they wished to proscribe. This case cannot be distinguished from that of *Mayne v. Walter* (b); though, even without the authority of that case, I should have had no hesitation in deciding in favour of the plaintiff. On the whole, therefore, I am of opinion, that though we should have been concluded by that sentence, if the ship, contrary to justice, had been condemned as not being *Danish*; yet, as the courts abroad have endeavoured to give other supports to their judgment, which do not warrant it, and have stated, as the foundation of the sentence of condemnation, one of their own ordinances which is not binding on other nations, this sentence does not prove that the ship in question

(a) Vid. *Bird v. Appleton*, 8 T. R. 562. — (b) Sup. 397.

was not a neutral ship; and consequently the plaintiff is entitled to recover.”—Mr. Justice *Lawrence* said—“There are two questions in this case; *first*, what is the ground of the sentence of condemnation; *secondly*, whether it falsifies the warranty; for if it do, then, according to all the authorities, it is conclusive here.—On the first question, the only ground of the sentence was, that the captain of the ship was born in *Scotland* and an enemy; for they say, “that his quality of enemy sufficed to legitimate the prize;” and this, merely because it is against one of their own ordinances.—The next question is, whether this has negatived the warranty. This warranty did not induce any necessity to comply with the peculiar regulations of the belligerent powers. For, the general rule for judging and deciding whether a captured ship be neutral or not, is the law of nations, subject to such alterations and modifications as may have been introduced by treaties: But where the law of nations has not been varied or departed from by mutual agreement, that is the general rule for deciding all questions, on matters of prize. This is clearly laid down in the state paper signed by Sir *George Lee*, Dr. *Paul*, the King’s advocate, Sir *D. Ryder*, and Mr. *Murray*, then Attorney and Solicitor General, in answer to the *Prussian* memorials, concerning neutral ships (a). When, therefore, a state in amity with a belligerent power has, *by treaty*, agreed that the ships of their subjects shall only have that character when furnished with certain precise documents, whoever warrants a ship to be the property of such subject, should provide himself with those evidences which have, by the country to which she belongs, been agreed to be the necessary proof of that character. In requiring this, no difficulty is imposed, of which the insured is not aware, and which may not be in his power to prevent: But to insist on his furnishing himself with every document the belligerent powers may require, and to insist that the warranty is not complied with, unless the ship be navi-

Ships should be furnished with such documents as the states they belong to have by treaty agreed to be the evidences of their neutrality.

(a) Vid. *Collectanea Juridica*, 1 vol. 33.

gated according to their ordinances and regulations, would be to deprive the insured of his indemnity for the want of papers, &c. of the necessity of which he may fairly be presumed to be ignorant, and which papers it may not, perhaps, be in his power to procure; for how can the officers of one country be called upon to grant that which the laws of that country do not require? These *French* decrees are regulations made with some view to the laws of *France*, but are not applicable to the subjects of any other country. In examining the cases decided on this point, it will be found to have been settled in many of them, that a condemnation on the particular ordinances of a belligerent power does not falsify a warranty of neutrality. In the case of *Bernardi v. Motteux* (a), the ship *Joanna* was warranted neutral; the only doubt was, whether she had been condemned as being the property of an enemy, or for violating a *French arrêt*, by throwing papers overboard; for the one or the other of these causes she was condemned. If she had been condemned for the first, namely, that she was not neutral, the plaintiff clearly could not have recovered, nor could he have recovered if she had been condemned on the other ground, according to the argument of the defendant in this case: But it is clear that the court did not, in that case, proceed upon the argument used for the defendant in the present case, because the plaintiff did recover in that case, it not being certain that the ground of condemnation was, that the ship was the property of an enemy. But the case chiefly relied on by the defendant here is that of *Barzillay v. Lewis* (b), which was decided on the ground of a non-compliance with the treaty of *Utrecht*, and on the sentence having condemned the ship as *English*. According to a manuscript note of that case, taken by Mr. Justice *Buller*, rather more full than that in print, Lord *Mansfield* began his judgment by stating the sentence of the court of admiralty as being conclusive, and that the question was on the meaning of it. He afterwards observed, that

Bernardi v. Motteux, considered.

Barzillay v. Lewis considered, and illustrated.

(a) *Doug.* 375, sup. 395.—(b) *Park* 410. sup. 398.

the ship was insured by her *Dutch* name, and that the underwriters took it for granted that she was *Dutch*; but that, when this was sifted in *France*, she appeared to have none of the requisites to shew that she was neutral property, for she had never been in a *Dutch* port, and the sea brief was *not conformable to the treaty of Utrecht*; and he concluded by saying that the ship was condemned *as an English ship*, and that it was not open to this court to enquire whether that sentence were right or wrong. So here, if the ship had been condemned as an *English*, and not a *Danish* ship, we should have been concluded by it. In that case Mr. Justice *Willes* and Mr. Justice *Asbush* concurred; and Mr. Justice *Buller* said, “The first sentence seems to be on particular *arrêts*. The second appears to go on the ground of property, for the name is changed, and they do not go into evidence as to the muster-roll or situation of the crew as to their being more than two thirds *English*. The other ground is more general, and makes it immaterial whether it was on the one ground or the other; for if she were not so documented as to have the protection of a neutral ship, the warranty is not complied with. It is true that Lord *Mansfield*, in the course of giving his opinion in that case, used some expressions which may be applied to support the defendant’s argument here; but it is clear that the ground on which he decided was a non-compliance with what was agreed, by the treaty of *Utrecht*, should be a necessary document to prove the ship to be *Dutch* property; and this was the express ground of the opinions of the other judges. That Lord *Mansfield* could not, in that case, intend to say that a non-compliance with the ordinances of *France*, not adopted by any treaty, was a forfeiture of neutrality, appears from the case of *Mayne v. Walter*, where the plaintiff recovered (a).—He there pointedly shewed how such ordinances might become binding, by observing that the *whole case turned upon treaties between France and Portugal*, about which both parties were silent; and there it was holden that the

Mayne v. Walter
considered.

(a) Sup. 397.

circumstance of having an *English* supercargo on board was no ground to defeat the plaintiff's right to recover on a policy on a ship warranted to be *Portuguese*. In a subsequent case, *Salucci v. Johnson* (a), there were two grounds of condemnation, one that the ship would not stop to be searched, the other, that she had not a charter-party on board, as required by an ordinance of *Spain*. On the latter, Mr. J. *Asburst* said (according to my own note),—‘As to the next question, her not having a charter party: This clearly is not required by the law of nations; and it appears by the case that she was a general ship. And though she acted contrary to a particular ordinance of *Spain*, other nations are not bound to take notice of such ordinance, unless in virtue of some treaty subsisting between two states, by which they submit to be bound by it. That is not the case here.’ So that the doctrine on which the case before us is determined was distinctly recognized there. The argument of the defendant here is, that the sentence of condemnation is conclusive, on the point that the ship was not navigated according to the contract between the parties.—The contract between the parties is, that she was a neutral ship; but the sentence has not decided that point; it has only decided that she was not navigated according to an ordinance of *France*; but that was no part of the plaintiff's contract. In deciding this case in favour of the plaintiff, we do not take upon ourselves to say that the sentence of the *French* court of admiralty is erroneous: All that we determine is, that the *French* court has not decided that which would falsify the warranty of neutrality.”

Salucci v. Johnson considered.

In the case of *Bird v. Appleton*, which came before the court of King's Bench, soon after the above case, and which has been already fully stated (b), Lord *Kenyon* declared that he adhered to the opinion delivered by the court in the above case of *Pollard v. Bell*; and maintained, as an indisputable proposition, that courts of admiralty are to

Courts of admiralty are to proceed on the *jus gentium*, which is not varied by particular treaties, except as between the parties to such treaties.

(a) Sup. 387.—(b) Sup. 74.

proceed on the known *jus gentium*, or on the treaties between particular states; that such treaties do not alter the *jus gentium* with respect to the rest of the world; but that, as between those particular states, they are considered as ingrafted on the *jus gentium*; and that one state has no authority, by any ordinance of its own, to vary the general law of nations, as to other states.

A condemnation for want of a document, not required by the law of nations, or by treaty, is not conclusive.

In the foregoing case of *Pollard v. Bell*, there was an express warranty that the ship was neutral. In the following case there was no such warranty expressed; but it appearing in evidence that the ship was in fact neutral, it was determined that, upon a loss by capture, by a *French* privateer, the insured was entitled to recover upon a policy upon the ship and goods, notwithstanding a sentence of condemnation thereof as prize by the *French* court of admiralty, such sentence proceeding on the ground of a breach of *French* ordinances, requiring the observance of certain particulars in respect of the ship's documents, beyond what was necessary by the treaty.

Price & anr. v. Bell, 1 East 663.

—An *American* ship being furnished with such a passport and other papers as are required by treaty, is condemned by the *French*, on the ground of a breach of *French* ordinances, contrary to the treaty:— This sentence does not falsify any supposed implied warranty that the ship should be furnished with *American* papers.

That was an insurance on the ship *South Carolina* and goods on board, 'from *London* to *Charlestown*.' It appeared that the ship was *American*; but there was no warranty of her being such; that on the 30th of *January* 1797, the captain, being about to sail on a voyage from *Charlestown* for the *Havannah*, obtained the usual and regular sea-letters or passports in *English*, *French*, and *Dutch*; that in *May* 1797, the ship returned from the *Havannah*, and deposited her passports with her other sea-papers at the custom-house at *Charlestown*; that on the 27th of *May*, being then about to sail again from *Charlestown* for the *Havannah*, and from thence for *London*, the captain received back from the custom-house at *Charlestown* his passports, with a certificate indorsed thereon, stating that he had, that day, cleared out for the *Havannah* with the goods specified in the indorsement, and at the same time took all other documents and papers usually taken, or made entry of, by *American* ships. That the ship sailed to the *Havannah*, and from thence to *London*, where she arrived in *September* 1797; that at *London* she took in a cargo (the goods insured)

insured) for *Charlestown*; and the captain, having lost several of his crew by death, was obliged to take others on board, all of whom were *American* subjects, and procured a new muster-roll, upon oath made before the lord mayor of *London*, and signed and certified by the *American* minister, with whom he left the original muster-roll; that on the 11th of *December* 1797, the ship sailed on the voyage insured, and on the 28th was captured by the *French* and carried into *L'Orient*; that at the time of the capture, she had on board, *beside all other usual papers and documents*, the passports indorsed as above stated, and also the muster-roll obtained in *London*; that the ship and cargo were condemned by the tribunal of commerce at *L'Orient*; and upon appeal, the sentence was confirmed; that the original sentence admitted that the ship was *American*; but, in substance, alledged as the ground of the condemnation, that the passport had been used for several voyages, contrary to an ordinance of 1778, which provides that “*a passport shall serve but for one voyage only* ;” that the muster-roll obtained in *London* was insufficient, because, by the same ordinance, “*the muster-roll must be attested by the officers of the neutral place from whence the vessel sails* ;” that the bills of lading do not prove the neutrality of the goods, within the provisions of the said ordinance; that the court of appeal, after adopting these allegations, added, that if all these provisions should not be sufficient, of themselves, to establish the former sentence, yet that the law of the 12th *Nivose*, 6th year, declaring, “*that the neutrality of every ship should be determined by the cargo*,” was sufficient to establish it, because the ship was within the scope of this law, her cargo being entirely of goods of *English* manufacture; that the treaty between *France* and the *United States* (art. 12.) provides, ‘that the merchant ships of either party going into the port of an enemy of the other, shall, upon just grounds of suspicion, produce not only their passports, but likewise certificates shewing that their goods are not prohibited as contraband ;’ and that, art. 25. provides that, ‘if either party shall be at war, the ships

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‘ of the other must be furnished with passports in a form
 ‘ annexed to the treaty ; and which shall be recalled every
 ‘ year, if the ship returns within the year.’—Upon this case
 three questions arose ; 1st, Whether there was an *implied*
warranty that the ship should be furnished with all
 papers and documents which an *American* ought to have ?
 2dly, Whether, in fact, this ship had all such papers ?
 3dly, Whether the condemnation proceeded on the ground
 that she had not such papers as, by treaty, or by the law
 of her own country, she ought to have had ? or, Whether
 it proceeded on the want of such papers as the ordinances
 of *France* only require ?—The court determined in fa-
 vour of the plaintiffs.—They declared that the opinion
 which they had formed on the two last of these questions,
 rendered it unnecessary to give any opinion upon the
 first. They said, that it appeared that this ship had all
 the papers necessary for an *American* vessel, which,
 put an end to the defence set up by the under-
 writers ; that the sentences of condemnation ap-
 peared to them manifestly to have proceeded on the
 ground of a breach of *French* ordinances which were
 contrary to the treaty ; particularly, the ordinance of
July 1778, which declares, that a passport shall serve but
 for one voyage ; whereas, by the treaty, passports are to
 be recalled only every year ; and then only in case the
 ship returns into her port within the year. And that,
 in this case, the passport which the *South Carolina* had on
 board at the time of the capture, had been granted
 within the year ; for it was granted on the 30th of
January 1797, and the ship was captured in *December*
1797. So that, if there were any such implied warranty
 as had been contended for, it was not negatived by the
 condemnation.

But if, from the
 whole of the
 sentence, it can
 be collected that
 the foreign court
 proceeded on the
 ground of ene-
 my's property,
 it is conclusive.

Though the foreign court, in pronouncing sentence,
 do not expressly declare that the subject of condemnation
 was *enemy's property* ; yet, if, from the whole of the sen-
 tence, it can be collected that it proceeded on that ground,
 it will falsify the warranty. This was determined at the

Cockpit,

Cockpit, upon great consideration, in the following case, by Sir *William Grant*, Master of the Rolls, Lord *Glenbervie*, and Sir *William Scott*, Judge of the Admiralty, upon appeal from a judgment of the Recorder's Court at *Madras*.

It was an insurance effected at *Madras*, on goods on board the *Resolution*, Captain *Neale*, on a voyage from *Madras* to *Sweden*, “warranted Swedish property.”—The ship, being obliged to put into the *Isle of France* for refreshments, was there seized, and, with her cargo, condemned as prize.—The sentence of the *tribunal of commerce*, at that place, stated two questions for decision. 1st, ‘Whether the proceedings were regular? 2dly, ‘Whether from the papers found on board, and other ‘evidence, the ship and cargo must be considered as ‘enemy’s property, and confiscated for the use of the ‘republic; or, whether they must be considered as ‘Swedish property, and restored to the claimants.’ It then proceeds to state several grounds of condemnation, and amongst others, ‘That the master was an *Englishman* ‘by birth, who claimed to be a naturalized *Swede*, but ‘whose naturalization was not conformable to the regulations of *France* in 1778; that Mr. *Gordon*, the second ‘captain, or chief mate, was a *Scotchman*, which was ‘contrary to the same regulations; that the general invoice ‘and bill of lading produced by the captain, and the particular invoice of the cargo, made by the shippers at *Madras*, ‘were not signed,’ &c.; whereupon the court declares the ship and cargo to be *lawful prize*.—An action on the policy was brought in the Recorder’s Court at *Madras*, where judgment was given for the underwriters, on the ground that the Admiralty Court at the *Isle of France* had considered the question, whether the property was enemy’s or neutral, and had condemned it as enemy’s; and that this was sufficient to falsify the warranty.—Upon appeal to the king in council, this judgment was affirmed.—Sir *William Grant*, who pronounced the judgment, said;—“With regard to one question that has

Kinderley & ors. v. Chase & ors. at the Cockpit, 22d July 1801. MS.

A ship, warranted Swedish, is captured by the French, and condemned. The court of prize, after stating the principal question to be whether the ship and cargo were enemy’s property, condemns both as good prize, without any express adjudication as to the property:—This sentence must be taken to have proceeded on the ground of enemy’s property, and is conclusive to falsify the warranty.

A sentence of a court of admiralty, proceeding *in rem*, is conclusive, and binds in all courts and all persons.

been started in the argument, namely, whether a sentence of a court of admiralty can, in a court of common law, be held to falsify a warranty, so as to affect the interest of one who was no party to the suit in the admiralty; I think that this objection, not having been made in the court below, cannot now be made here. But supposing it now open to the appellants to raise that question, I think it must here be raised in vain. It is quite clear that, from Lord *Hale's* time to the present period, it has been settled that a sentence of condemnation in a court of admiralty, as enemy's property, is conclusive to prove that the property was such, not only for the immediate purpose of such a sentence, but it is binding in all courts and as against all persons. This has been so clearly understood that it was not even controverted in the case of the *Duchess of Kingston*, where the conclusive effect of all sorts of evidence was so ably discussed (*a*). It was admitted that the sentence of a court of admiralty proceeding *in rem* must bind all parties,—must bind all the world (*b*). But, taking such a sentence to be conclusive, another question is made,—whether *this sentence* ought to produce that effect? It is said that if it clearly appear, on the face of the sentence, that it did not proceed on the ground of enemy's property, but on some other distinct ground, in that case, the warranty of neutrality is not necessarily falsified by it, and certainly there are several cases that have so decided. I have looked at them all, and not one of them will be contradicted by our decision on this case. It is generally to be presumed that

(*a*) See Lord *Kenyon's* judgement in *Christie v. Secretan*, 8 T. R. 196. All the learning upon this point will be found in the arguments of Mr. *Wallace* and Mr. *Mansfield* in the *Duchess of Kingston's* case, 11 *Harg.* State Trials, 205, and in the admirable argument of Lord Chief Justice *De Grey* in the same case, p. 261.—Vid. also *Walker v. Witter*, *Dougl.* 1. and the notes there to the 3d edition, and 12 *Vin. Ab.* 86.

(*b*) Vid. sup. 392. where it is shewn that in *France*, at least, the converse of the rule here insisted upon has always prevailed.

such

such sentences proceed on legitimate grounds, and therefore they are in general conclusive proof to negative the warranty. Hence it follows that it does not lie on the party producing the sentence to shew that it has proceeded on the ground of enemy's property; but it is incumbent on the other party, who objects to the sentence, to shew that it proceeded on some other ground. That, I take to be the effect of those decisions; and therefore it is necessary here to shew some distinct and collateral ground on which the sentence has proceeded, leaving the question of property entirely undetermined. Now, in this case, the court declared what were the questions they had to decide. One was, whether, under all the circumstances stated, the ship and cargo must be considered as *enemy's property*, and, as such, confiscated? Or, whether, on the contrary, they must be considered as *Swedish property*, and restored to the claimants?—But they determine that the ship and cargo are to be confiscated for the benefit of the republic. Now we must strain very hard, to make them contradict themselves in this sentence, if we say they did not mean to decide upon the property, when they expressly declare that the sentence depended entirely on *the question of property*. It has been said in argument that it appears, from one of the reasons of their decision, that they must have proceeded on the ground of their own ordinance of 1778, which declares, ‘that the having ‘a supercargo or chief officer of the enemy's country on board, is a sufficient ground of condemnation.’ Now supposing, for a moment, that it was *chiefly*, for certainly it was not solely, through that medium that they arrived at that conclusion, would that have been sufficient to authorize us to treat the sentence as inconclusive. Supposing they had stated the facts of the case, without any reference to the ordinance, could any man say that those facts were so irrelevant to the conclusions they have drawn of enemy's property, that a court of common law would have thought itself at liberty to go into the question,

The party who produces a sentence is not obliged to shew the ground of it to be enemy's property, but the party objecting to it must shew the contrary.

Observations on
the force and
effect of foreign
ordinances.

tion, and see *whether the conclusion was warranted or not*. The court of King's Bench has always disclaimed such a jurisdiction (a). Then does it vitiate the sentence that a court of competent jurisdiction has said, there is an ordinance which warrants and supports such a sentence? These ordinances have been misunderstood; sometimes by the *French* courts of admiralty themselves, and sometimes by the courts in this country. Those in *France* considered these ordinances as making the law, and as binding on neutrals, and have therefore, sometimes declared, in the same breath, that the property was neutral, and yet that it was liable to condemnation: Whereas all that was meant by those ordinances was, to lay down rules of decision conformable to what the lawyers and statesmen of the country understood to be the just principles of maritime law. When *Louis XIV.* published his famous ordinance of 1681, nobody thought that he was undertaking to legislate for *Europe*, merely because he collected together, and reduced into the shape of an ordinance, the principles of the marine law as then understood and received in *France*. I say, as understood in *France*, for although the law of nations ought to be the same in every country, yet, as the tribunals which administer the law are wholly independent of each other, it is impossible that some differences shall not take place in the manner of interpreting and administering it in the different countries which acknowledge its authority. Whatever may have been since attempted, it was not, at the period now referred to, supposed that one state could make or alter the law of nations; but it was judged convenient to declare certain *principles of decision*, partly for the purpose of giving an uniform rule to their own courts, and partly for the purpose of apprising neutrals what that rule was. And it was truly observed at the bar, in the course of the argument, that it has been matter of complaint

(a) In *Bernardi v. Motteux*, sup. 395. it was determined that where the sentence is ambiguous, the ground of it may be examined.

against us (how justly is another consideration), that we have no code by which neutrals may learn how they may protect themselves against capture and condemnation. Now this court, in this case, seems to me to have well and properly understood the effect of their own ordinances. They have not taken them as positive laws binding upon neutrals, but they refer to them as establishing *legitimate presumptions*, from which they are warranted to draw the conclusion which it is necessary for them to arrive at, before they are entitled to pronounce a sentence of condemnation (a). Supposing they had only
stated

(a) Legitimate presumptions are, I conceive, such as by a fair and reasonable interpretation, are deducible from the facts of a case. Every court, by its own inherent authority, has the power of raising such presumptions, and it requires no positive law to enable it to do so. A presumption which can only be raised by the authority of a positive law, cannot be a legitimate presumption, in the sense in which I understand that term; but must be a forced or constrained one, and not necessarily deducible from the facts. The law of nations, like municipal law, has its rules of evidence, without which its constitutions could never be enforced. But, to maintain that any state may, by its own ordinances, enjoin its courts to raise presumptions not warranted by the facts, is to acknowledge in the legislature of every state a power of rendering nugatory all the sanctions of public law. Individual states may, by mutual compact, make rules which shall be binding upon themselves. For instance, two states may stipulate that an individual subject of a hostile state found on board a ship of either of the contracting parties, shall be deemed conclusive evidence that the ship and cargo are enemy's property; This would be binding upon each of these states, as long as the treaty remained in force. But any state which, by its own ordinances, shall declare that an individual subject of a hostile country being found on board a neutral ship, shall be conclusive evidence to prove that the ship and cargo are enemy's property, must at once renounce all pretensions to justice, and deny that public law has in itself any binding force.

stated

stated the facts, as they are now before us, are they to be considered as so irrelevant, that a court of common law would say, that this sentence is repugnant to justice, and not warranted on the ground on which it has proceeded? Supposing all the circumstances of this case had been brought before a *British* court of admiralty, I think it would be questionable whether they would have permitted further proof: The property, I apprehend, would hardly have escaped condemnation in the first instance. The result of all the cases is, ‘*that a sentence of a court of admiralty is conclusive as to all that it professes to decide.*’ Now, is it possible to say, that this court did not profess to decide whether this was, or was not, enemy’s property? It was the only question this court did profess to decide.”—Lord *Glenbervie* observed that, in the case of *Pollard v. Bell* (a), the *French* court did not *profess* to go on the ground of *enemy’s property*; and, that the very first fact stated in that case was, “*that the ship was neutral property.*”

If the condemnation be for the want of the requisites of a neutral, it will be conclusive.

Baring v. Claggett, 3 Bos. & Pul. 301.

A ship described as *American*. is condemned because the captain was not an *American* citizen, and the owner was a *British* subject not naturalized in *America*, contrary to the treaty between *France* and *America*:—This falsified the warranty.

If a ship described as *American*, which is equivalent to a warranty (b), be condemned as prize because she wants certain requisites to entitle her to the protection of such neutral state; this will falsify the warranty.

Thus:—Goods were insured, in *June* 1796, on board the *Mount Vernon*, ‘At and from *Philadelphia* to *London*, ‘with liberty to touch at one port in the *Channel*, at a ‘premium of three guineas *per cent.* the ship being stated ‘in the policy to be *American.*’—The ship, within two hours after she sailed, was captured by a *French* privateer, and carried into the *Spanish* island of *Porto Rico*.—In an action on the policy, it appeared that the ship was the property of *W. M. Duncanson*, who was born a *British* subject, had resided in the *United States of America* from *August* 1794, and was naturalized in *October* 1796, but

(a) *Supra* 413.—(b) So held by all the judges in *Lothian v. Henderson*, 3 Bos. & Pul. 499. inf. 430.

not till after the ship was captured; that the ship had before belonged to an *American* citizen, and was registered at *Philadelphia* in his name when she sailed; that she was furnished with the following documents; 1st, a certificate of clearance, with a manifest of her cargo annexed; 2d, a sea-letter or passport in *French, English, and Dutch*, beginning thus: ‘Be it known, that leave and permission has been granted to *George G. Dominick*, master or commander of the ship called the *Mount Vernon*, of the town of *PHILADELPHIA*, of the burthen of 424 tons or thereabouts, being at present in the port of *PHILADELPHIA*, and bound for *Hamburg*, loaded with sundries as per manifest;’ that, while she remained at *Porto Rico*, the provisional tribunal of prizes at *St. Domingo* pronounced a sentence, intituled, “*Condemnation of the English ship Mount Vernon*;” which stated, ‘that the captain had thrown papers overboard; that he was a *Portuguese* without any certificate of his naturalization; then adds several other less important grounds; and concludes with declaring that these are sufficient motives to condemn the ship and cargo, and accordingly they are condemned as having been justly captured by the captain of the privateer to whom they are adjudged as his property.’ The case likewise set forth several provisions of the treaty of the 6th of *February 1778*, between *France* and *America*, by the 25th article of which it is stipulated, ‘that in case either of the parties shall be engaged in war, the ships belonging to the subjects of the other must be furnished with sea-letters or passports, expressing the name, property, and bulk of the ship; as also the name and place of habitation of the master, that it may thereby appear that the ship truly belongs to the subjects of one of the parties.’ The case also set forth several of the *American* navigation laws, which have provided, ‘that ships and vessels registered by virtue of certain acts shall be denominated and deemed ships and vessels of the *United States*, and entitled to the benefits and privileges appertaining to such ships or vessels: Provided, that they shall not continue to enjoy the same longer than they shall continue to be wholly owned, and to be commanded by,

citizens

'citizens of the United States.'—The court, upon this case, gave judgment for the defendant. But, in the report, the grounds of their decision do not very distinctly appear. There is, however, one so obvious that it ought at once to have precluded all doubt upon the subject.—As *Duncanson* had not acquired the rights of an *American* citizen at the time of the capture, it followed that the *Mount Vernon* was not an *American* ship, within the meaning of the *American* navigation laws; and this, of itself, was a sufficient ground of condemnation.

Baring & ors.
v. Christie,
5 East 393.

The passport in the foregoing case, granting leave 'to C. D. master of the ship M. V. of the town of P. of the burthen, &c.' does not specify the place of habitation of the master, but only the place to which the ship belongs.

Another action was afterwards brought in the court of *Common Pleas*, upon the same policy, and a special verdict found, which stated the same facts as in the former case; and the cause being removed by writ of error into the court of *King's Bench*, the judgment of the court of *Common Pleas* was there affirmed.—The decision of the *King's Bench* proceeded solely upon the ground that the passport which was found on board did not, in compliance with the 25th article of the treaty, specify the place of habitation of the master of the vessel; the court being of opinion that the words "*of the town of Philadelphia,*" in the passport, could not, by any grammatical or fair construction, be referred to *George G. Dominick*, the master, but only to the ship.

By express stipulation, the insured may avoid the effect of a foreign sentence.

If the ship be described in the policy as belonging to a neutral state, this is equivalent to an express warranty of neutrality: But this may be explained by a subsequent agreement, so as to preclude the effect of a foreign sentence of condemnation as enemy's property, where, in point of fact, the ship was neutral property.

Lothian & ors.
v. Henderson & ors. 3 Bosc. & Pul. 499.

Goods are insured on board a ship described as 'an *American* vessel,' from *Virginia* to *Holland*. Doubts arose whether the policy contained a warranty; where-

Thus—A cargo of tobacco was insured at *Glasgow*, on account of Messrs. *Henderson* and Co. on board the *Catherine*, "an *American* vessel," from *Virginia* to *Holland*, at ten guineas *per cent.*—Soon after the policy was effected, doubts having arisen whether the words, "an *American* vessel," amounted to a warranty, the underwriters signed a paper declaring, 'that, in case of capture or seizure, *Henderson* and Co. before they claimed for a loss, must produce proof of the ship being an *American* bottom, and,

‘ and, by bills of lading, shew the tobacco to have been
 ‘ shipped on account and risk of *Henderson* and Co.;
 ‘ upon which they would settle, by granting their bills at
 ‘ four months, for the amount of their subscriptions,
 ‘ deducting the stipulated premium, in full dependence
 ‘ that the insured would use their best endeavours to
 ‘ recover the property for account of the shippers.’—The
Catherine was captured on her voyage by a *French* priva-
 teer, and condemned as *enemy's property*, because she had
 not on board a *role d'équipage*, or muster-roll, pursuant to
 a law of the *Directory*, 12th *Ventose*, 5th year, which de-
 clares lawful prize, and orders to be treated as *enemy's*
property, all ships of the *United States* unprovided with
 muster-rolls, conformable to the model of the passport
 annexed to the treaty of 1778, between *France* and *Ame-*
rica.—Upon appeal to the higher tribunal, this sentence
 was confirmed.—Intelligence of these events arriving at
Glasgow, the agents of *Henderson* and Co. communicated
 it to the underwriters, and laid before them the bill of
 lading to shew that the cargo was shipped on account of
Henderson and Co. together with a certificate of the
American vice-consul at *Nantz*, that the ship's papers
 were detained there, and requested them to settle the loss
 according to agreement.—The underwriters refused, and
 a suit was instituted against them in the admiralty court
 of *Scotland*, which decreed in favour of the insured;
 which decree, upon appeal, was affirmed in the court of
 Session, and, upon appeal to the House of Lords, finally
 affirmed there.—The case was twice argued at the bar of
 the House of Lords, the second time in presence of all
 the Judges, to whom this question was put,—‘ Whether,
 ‘ taking it for granted that the ship had every document
 ‘ which *American* ships usually had, or which *France* on
 ‘ former occasions required (a), if, upon proof that the
 ‘ ship and cargo were *American* property, bills at four

upon the under-
 writers signed
 an agreement,
 ‘ That, in case
 ‘ of capture or
 ‘ seizure, the in-
 ‘ sured on pro-
 ‘ curing papers
 ‘ to prove that
 ‘ the ship and
 ‘ cargo were
 ‘ really neutral,
 ‘ should be en-
 ‘ titled to his
 ‘ loss.’ The
 ship is captured,
 and condemned
 as *enemy's pro-*
perty:—The
 words “*Ameri-*
can vessel,”
 amount to a war-
 ranty of neu-
 trality; and the
 proof required
 being adduced,
 is sufficient to
 satisfy the war-
 ranty, though
 without the ex-
 planatory agree-
 ment, the foreign
 sentence would
 have been con-
 clusive to falsify
 it.

(a) The want of a *role d'équipage* was one of the grounds
 of condemnation in the case of *Guyer v. Aguilar*, 7 T. R. 631.
 sup. 404.

‘ months had been given by the underwriters to the insured
 ‘ for the loss, and such bills had remained in their hands
 ‘ till after the sentence of condemnation, the insured
 ‘ could have recovered against the underwriters on those
 ‘ bills, notwithstanding such intervening sentence (b)?’—All
 the Judges held, clearly that the words, “An *American* vessel,”
 in the policy, amounted to a warranty. They agreed,
 also, that it is fully established, and not now to be dis-
 puted, that the sentence of a foreign court of prize,
 condemning a ship or goods as *enemy’s property*, no matter
 by what deduction they come to that conclusion, is binding
 and conclusive in our courts.—Upon the principal question
 the Judges differed in opinion.—Mr. Justice *Laurence*,
 Mr. Justice *Le Blanc*, and Mr. Justice *Chambre* held, that
 the explanatory declaration had not the effect of varying
 or narrowing the sort of proof which it is in general
 competent to the insured to adduce in support of his
 claim, or to the underwriters to use in resisting it; and,
 therefore, that it did not shut out the effect of the sentence
 of condemnation; and that this was conclusive in favour
 of the underwriters to falsify the warranty.—The Lord
 Chancellor (Lord *Eldon*), with the rest of the Judges, being
 of opinion that those who do not chuse to subject them-
 selves to the caprice or injustice of a *French* court of prize,
 may stipulate in the policy, that the sentence of a *French*
 court shall not be adduced in evidence against their claim,
 held that the effect of the explanatory declaration was,
 that, if the words, “an *American* vessel,” in the policy,
 should amount to a warranty, then the insured should be
 at liberty, in case of loss, to prove the ship and cargo to be
American property, in the manner stipulated, so as to

An insured may
 stipulate that a
 foreign sentence
 shall not be
 conclusive
 against his
 claim.

(b) This appears to have been a mere speculative question,
 the underwriters not having given any bills to the insured.
 The judges, however, in giving their opinions, did not confine
 themselves to this narrow view of the case, but went at large
 into the law arising out of the real facts.

satisfy

satisfy the warranty, notwithstanding the production of a *French* sentence of condemnation as *enemy's property*.

If, in a foreign sentence, there be several grounds of condemnation set forth, and one of them be a good and legal ground, it will be conclusive to falsify the warranty, though joined to several bad ones.

One legal ground will be conclusive, though joined to several bad ones.

As, where goods were insured on board the *Rosanna*, warranted *American* ship and goods, from *Surinam* to *London*, *Rotterdam*, or *Hamburgh*.—The ship was captured by a *French* privateer, carried into *Rochelle*, and there adjudged by the tribunal of commerce to be restored to the owners. On appeal, this decree was reversed, and the ship and cargo condemned. The grounds of the sentence were, 'That the captain of the *Rosanna* had not produced a list of the crew signed by the marine officers of *New York*, from whence she sailed; that he had not the sea-letter or passport required by the 25th article of the treaty of 1778, between *France* and *America*; that the pretended list of the crew produced by the captain was a nullity, not being authenticated by any signature or attestation; that, of the 18 men who composed the crew, four were taken at *Surinam*, and seven at *London*; and that the crew was therefore composed of more than one-third enemies, contrary to the ordinances of 1704 and 1778; and lastly, that, though the ship and cargo were *American*, that was not sufficient, in point of law, to entitle the captain to restitution, he having infringed the above ordinance of 1704, as well as the treaty.' This sentence, upon appeal to the tribunal of cassation, was affirmed.—The insured contended that, in as much as the sentence proceeded on the ground of a violation of an ordinance not binding upon *America*, though aided by objections founded on the treaty, it could not be deemed to falsify the warranty.—But the court held that, in as much as the sentence proceeded on the ground of an infraction of the treaty, the ship not having those documents with which, in the judgment of the *French* tribunal, she ought to have been provided, it falsified the warranty.—Lord *Ellenborough* said,—“ I do not say that they have construed the treaty rightly: On the contrary, suppose them to have construed it ever so iniquitously, yet, having competent jurisdiction to construe it, and

Baring v. Roy.
Ex. Assur.
5 East 99.

An *American* ship is condemned on the ground that she was not documented according to treaty, and upon the breach of ordinances which were not binding upon *America*:—The sentence will falsify the warranty.

having professed to do so, we are bound to give credit to their adjudication."

A foreign sentence will be conclusive, though it collect the *indicia* which govern its decision from ordinances not binding upon other states.

It is competent to every court of prize to decide whether a captured ship be neutral or not; and if it actually determine this question, its decision against the ship's neutrality has been holden to be conclusive in our courts to falsify the warranty; even though it profess to conform to, and to collect the *indicia* which govern its decision from ordinances of its own government, which are not binding upon other states.

Belton v. Gladstone, 5 *Litt.*, 155.

A neutral is condemned because she had not conformed to a French ordinance, which was not binding upon the neutral state:—The sentence is conclusive.

As, where an insurance was effected on the ship *Oxbolme* and her cargo, both warranted *Danish* property, 'at ' and from the island of *St. Thomas* to the coast of *Africa*, ' and from thence to *Surinam*.'—The ship and cargo were the property of *J. Hazzell*, *J. Murphy*, and *R. D. Jennings*, who at the time of loading the goods, and at the time of the capture, were subjects of *Denmark*, residing at *St. Thomas's*. The ship was captured in her voyage by the *French*, carried into the *French* island of *Senegal*, and though she was furnished with every document usually carried by *Danish* ships, was there condemned. The sentence stated that ' the *built* of the ship was unknown; ' that she was sold to a neutral subject only since the de- ' claration of war; that the bill of sale did not mention ' her *place of built*, or her *original owner*; that the mate ' and third officer were *naturalized Danes* only since the ' declaration of war; and that the greater part of the ' crew were the *subjects of hostile powers*, and then con- ' demned both ship and cargo as *lawful prize*, conform- ' ably to the regulations, concerning prizes of the 21st of ' *October 1744*.'—The court determined that this sentence falsified the warranty, and that no evidence could be received to disprove the facts upon which it was founded, though the ship was declared lawful prize upon re- ' gulations which are not binding upon other states.'—Lord *Ellenborough*, in delivering the judgment of the court, said, " The *French* prize court was competent to decide upon the neutrality of the ship; and if, in the professed exercise of its functions, it has decided upon that point, its decision must conclude the question. Looking therefore at the whole of the sentence, including the ordinance to

to which it professes to conform, it is impossible not to see that the prize court, upon the presumption of the ship's being enemy's property, or at least not neutral, in respect of certain *indicia* on that head collected from the ordinance referred to. And having, under the circumstances stated, decreed the vessel to be *good prize*, they have decided that the fact which is the subject of the warranty is substantially untrue. And having so decided, we are bound to hold the warranty to be fully disproved, and the plaintiff barred, therefore, from recovering upon the policy."

3. *What shall amount to a forfeiture of neutrality.*

The warranty of neutral property must not only be true at the time the policy is effected, but the insured must take care that he do not, by any act or omission on his part, forfeit his neutrality. Such forfeiture, by the wilful act of the master or mariners, though in some instances it may amount to barratry, is a breach of the warranty, and avoids the policy from the time it is committed; nor can the insured recover upon it for any loss happening afterwards, though it proceed from a cause wholly unconnected with the warranty (*a*). For it is of little importance to the insurer whether a ship be liable to capture or detention as being enemy's property, or for having forfeited her neutrality:

A ship may forfeit her neutrality by any act done or attempted against the law of nations, or in contravention of particular treaties with any of the belligerents.—What act shall amount to a forfeiture of neutrality is often a question of much doubt and difficulty.

The most frequent cause of such forfeiture is the refusal of neutral ships to submit to visitation and search by belligerent cruizers. When the question whether such resistance amounted to a forfeiture of neutrality first came to be debated in *Westminster Hall*, the judges of the court of *King's Bench* (*b*) agreed that a ship warranted neutral

Salucci v. Johnson, B R. Hi. 25. G. III. MS.

It has been holden that a neutral is not bound to submit to search.

(*a*) *R. Woolmer v. Muilman*, 4 Bur. 1419. 1 Bl. 427.—

(*b*) *Willes, Ashurst, and Buller, Js.* Lord Mansfield being absent.

must so conduct herself as not to forfeit her neutrality; and that if, by the wilful act of the captain, she do this, to the injury of the owners, it will amount to barratry: But they held, *that a neutral ship is not bound to submit to be searched*, search being an act of superior force, rather than the exercise of a right, which may always be resisted when the party is able to do so.

This decision
not warranted by
the law of na-
tions.

These learned judges seem to have adopted this opinion, without sufficient consideration.—The ground of their decision seems to have been, that, as the capture and condemnation of the ship insured were warranted only by the particular ordinances of the *Spanish* government, the sentence was no evidence to prove that the ship had forfeited her neutrality.—What the particular ordinances alluded to were, does not appear. The sentence stated that the ship had refused to submit to a search, and had resisted with force, *contrary to the Spanish cruising orders*. If those cruising orders directed that a neutral ship which should resist a search should be seized and confiscated, the question would then have been, whether such orders were warranted by the law of nations; for if they were, the resistance was a forfeiture of neutrality, and a just ground of capture and confiscation; nor were they less so, because they were enforced by an express provision in the *Spanish* cruising orders.—It is now settled that the law of nations does give to every belligerent cruiser the right of visitation and search of all merchant ships, and that a resistance to such search amounts to a forfeiture of neutrality.

A resistance to
search is a breach
of neutrality.

*Garrels v. Ken-
nington*, 8 T. R.
23.

A court of ad-
miralty con-
demns a ship
and cargo, be-
cause the master
and crew had
forcibly rescued
the ship from a
prize-master
sent with her
into port by a
belligerent
cruiser, for the
purpose of
search.—This is
a breach of the

Thus:—Goods were insured on board the *Dispatch*,
' At and from the island of *St. Thomas* to the *Havannah*;
' the ship and goods warranted *Danish* property.' In an
action on this policy, to recover a loss by capture, it ap-
peared,—That the ship and goods insured were the pro-
perty of *Danish* subjects resident at the *Danish* island of
St. Thomas; that, when the ship sailed on the voyage
insured, she had on board all the papers usually carried
by *Danish* ships; that she was captured by the *Pelican*, an
English man of war, and condemned by a sentence of the
British vice-admiralty court at *St. Domingo*, which stated,
' That the said neutral ship *Dispatch*, with the cargo on
' board,

‘ board, being *Danish* property, had been, under the law
 ‘ of nations and of war, and agreeably to existing treaties,
 ‘ stopped and detained by the captain of the *Pelican*, and
 ‘ sent by him to the port of *Mole St. Nicholas*, for the
 ‘ purpose of being legally examined, under the command
 ‘ of a midshipman, as prize-master, with two seamen;
 ‘ that on the near approach of the said ship to that
 ‘ port, the master and crew of the *Dispatch*, had, in di-
 ‘ rect violation and breach of their neutrality, as Danish
 ‘ subjects, and contrary to the law of nations, and the faith
 ‘ of treaties, violently and forcibly, at a preconcerted sig-
 ‘ nal, seized and taken possession of the said ship and
 ‘ cargo from the said prize-master and seamen, and had re-
 ‘ tained possession thereof till again captured by a *French*
 ‘ privateer; and that she was afterwards recaptured by
 ‘ the *Pelican*.’ The judge then, after stating his rea-
 sons at large, adjudges and decrees the ship and cargo
 to be lawful prize, &c.—On the part of the plaintiff it
 was contended, that the sentence did not negative that
 the ship and cargo were originally neutral; but only stated
 facts from which the court concluded that she afterwards
 forfeited her neutrality; and that these facts, when ex-
 amined, would not warrant that conclusion, *Danish* ships
 not being bound, by any treaties with *England*, to sub-
 mit to be searched, much less to be violently taken pos-
 session of, and carried out of the course of their voyage
 for that purpose; and that, by the law of nations, a neutral
 ship was not bound to submit to be searched, according
 to the decision in the case of *Saloucci v. Johnson* (a). But
 the court decided that the sentence was conclusive evi-
 dence that the ship had been guilty of a breach of her neu-
 trality, and that, therefore, the plaintiff was not entitled to
 recover.—Lord *Kenyon* said,—“ The case of *Saloucci v.*

ship's neutrality,
 and conclusively
 proved by the
 sentence of a
 court of admi-
 ralty condemn-
 ing her upon
 that ground.

(a) Sup. 387.—Another point was made by the plaintiff's
 counsel, viz. that even if a right of search did exist, the act of the
 captain and crew in resisting it would at most amount to barra-
 try, for which the underwriter would be liable. But this was
 answered by shewing that there was no count in the declaration
 for a loss by barratry.

Johnson professed, at last, to proceed on this ground, that the arbitrary ordinances of one country ought not to conclude the rights of the subjects of another; and that courts of justice ought to proceed on the acknowledged law of nations, and on the existing treaties between the different states. That case says that a ship, which is warranted neutral, must be so conducted as not to forfeit her neutrality. But was this ship so conducted? The sentence of the court of admiralty, which we cannot review, has expressly stated, ‘that the master and crew of the *Dispatch*, in direct violation and breach of their neutrality, as *Danish* subjects, and contrary to the law of nations and the faith of treaties, violently seized and took possession, &c.’ If we had constituted that court, perhaps, we might have drawn a different conclusion from the facts there stated: But we are now concluded by that sentence. Therefore, without contradicting the case of *Saloucci v. Johnson*, I think the defendant is intitled to our judgment. With regard to the question concerning the right of searching neutrals: Before the late armed neutrality, it was considered in this country, and so decided in many cases, that the right of searching neutrals is part of the law of nations; and it was supposed to be founded in reason.”—Mr Justice *Lawrence* said,—The argument founded on the case of *Saloucci v. Johnson* proceeds on a supposition that a point was there decided, which, in fact, was not decided: It was not there determined that this court can review the sentence of a court of admiralty, adjudging that a ship had forfeited her neutrality (a); for it was not there adjudged by the court

(a) The point there determined was, in substance, that the ship was justified in resisting a search, and that the sentence of the *Spanish* court of admiralty, being founded on the particular ordinances of that country, which made no part of the law of nations, was not conclusive to prove the legality of the capture.—If the ship did, in fact, forfeit her neutrality by the law of nations, the sentence was well founded; and its being stated in the sentence, that this resistance was contrary to the *Spanish* ordinances, does not destroy the validity of it.

of admiralty that the ship had forfeited her neutrality. But looking into the grounds of this sentence, we cannot but see that the ship was condemned for having violated her neutrality, and acted contrary to the law of nations and the faith of treaties."

As opposite doctrines have been advanced in these two cases upon a very important question of the law of nations, I think it will not be improper, in this place, to enquire, whether, according to the practice of past times, and the opinions of the persons most eminent for their learning in that law,—*Cruisers, legally commissioned, have a right to visit and search neutral merchant ships at sea; and whether a resistance to such search amounts to a forfeiture of neutrality.*

The question, as to the right of visitation and search, considered.

It may be proper here to premise that the law of nations does not consist of the arbitrary ordinances of particular states, dictated by interest, and supported only by force; but of those principles and regulations founded in reason and general convenience, by which the mutual intercourse between independent states is every where conducted; and from which none can depart without offending against civil society itself. What those principles and regulations are, is to be collected from long established practice amongst civilized states, which history has transmitted to us, and learned men have reduced to a system.

Law of nations defined.

M. Hubner, in the year 1759, published his treatise, *De la faisie des batimens neutres*, composed for the purpose of justifying the northern powers in supplying the French with naval stores, without interruption from Great Britain. It is evidently a party production, more remarkable for its ingenuity, than for candour or fair reasoning. It proposes to prove, that *free ships make free goods*, that *the flag covers the cargo*, and therefore, that *neutral ships, acknowledged as such, cannot be seized at sea, though they be laden with contraband of war, or with enemy's goods (a).*

Doctrine of Hubner.

Two or three authorities, however, will suffice to remove all doubt upon this question.

(a) Vid. Hubner de la faif. des batim. neut. part. I. c. 8. § 7.

Of the *Consolato del Mare*.

In the *Consolato del mare* (a), one of the most ancient collections of marine laws now extant, it is laid down *first*, that if enemy's good be found on board of neutral ships, they may be taken, the captor paying the freight, and any other claim the captain of the neutral ship may have upon them; *secondly*, that if neutral goods be found on board of an enemy's ship, the ship may be taken and the goods restored, the owner of them paying the freight.

Of *Bynkershoek*.

Grotius, who cites this passage, does not afford much satisfaction on this question: *Bynkershoek*, however, was decidedly of opinion, that belligerent cruizers were warranted by the law of nations in visiting neutral ships, in order to examine their papers and seize enemy's property, if any should be found on board: But he denies that the captor is bound to pay the freight or any other charge to the neutral captain, as laid down in the *Consolato del mare* (b).

Vattel,

(a) Ch. 273.—(b) After a review of the several treaties between particular states upon this subject, by which it is stipulated that *free ships shall make free goods*, which *Bynkershoek* says, are only exceptions to the general law, he proceeds thus:—*Sed quicquid sit, de ipsa ratione magis, quam de pactis, laborandum est. Eâ autem consultâ, non sum, qui videam, cur non liceret capere res hostiles, quamvis in navi amica repertas, id enim capio, quod hostium est, quodque jure belli victori cedit. Sin aias, me non rectè occupare res hostiles in navi amica, nisi prius occupem navem amicam, atque ita vim faciam rei amici, ut deprehendam rem hostis, idque non magis licere quam hostes nostros aggredi in amici portu, vel depraedari in territorio amici, velim animadvertas eatenus utique licitum esse amicam navem sistere, ut non ex fallaci forte aplustri, sed ex ipsis instrumentis, in navi repertis, constet, navem amicam esse. Si id constet, dimittam, si hostilem esse constiteret, occupabo. Quod si liceat, ut omni jure licet et perpetuo observatur, licebit quoque instrumenta, quæ ad merces pertinent, executere, et inde discere, an quæ hostium bona in nave lateant, et si latent, quidni ea jure belli occupem.—De eo sane non dubitant leges maritime in Consolato maris; secundum has enim navis amica dimittitur, res hostiles in portum victoris productæ publicantur. Sed rursus rationem non habet quod ibi additur, oportere victorem magistro navis amice solvere mercedes sive vectura prætia, quia hæc non debentur nisi perductis mercibus ad locum destinatum. Si auferis, per magistrum non stitisse quo minus eo perduxerit, verum dicis; sed magister, sui periculo,*

Vattel, a French author of great eminence, and not at all unfriendly to neutral rights, maintains by irrefragable arguments, not only the right of visitation and search, but also that a neutral ship which should resist such visitation and search, may for that cause alone, be seized and condemned as lawful prize (a). Of Vattel.

Yet the French seem to have been always governed by their own laws upon this subject, without much regard to that which might be deemed the law of nations; and it is curious to observe how their regulations have fluctuated, from time to time, under the influence of an interested policy. French ordinances.

According to the ancient laws of France, neutral ship was always confiscated which was taken with enemy's goods on board; but with an exception in favour of the *Hans Towns* (b).

By the ordinance of 1543, art. 42, and that of 1584, art. 69, every neutral ship, in which should be found any enemy's goods, and all goods found in an enemy's ship, though belonging to any ally, were declared good prize (c).

But the rigour of these regulations was mitigated by a declaration of February 1650, which directs that the goods of the friends and allies of the king, captured by his subjects, should be restored.

The

culo, merces hostiles navi sue imposuit, gnarus, eas capi, et sic in portum capientis perducere posse. Nihil igitur habebit querelarum, si sola navis demittatur, nisi inter eum et victorem convenerit, ut ipse merces hostiles deferat ad locum destinatum, translata sic in victorem causa locationis conductionis. Quæst. jur. pub. lib. 1, c. 14.—

(a) *Vid. Vattel, droit des gens, liv. 3, c. 7, art. 113, 114.—*

(b) *Vid. Bynk. quæst. jur. pub. lib. 1, c. 14.—*(c) *Vid.*

Emerg. t. 1. p. 450.—Hubner de la saisie des batim. neut. part. 1, c. 4, § 7, after animadverting upon the severity of the Romans, towards persons carrying on trade with their enemies, proceeds thus;— *Les sentimens et la conduite de la France, ont été, dans les siècles precedens, bien plus équitables à ces sujet. Son gouvernement n'a jamais prétendu troubler la navigation et le commerce ordinaire des états neutres avec ses ennemis. On n'a qu'à voir là dessus le 42me. chapitre de son ordonnance de l'année*

1542.

The famous ordinance of the marine of 1681 (a), restored the ancient severity, and declared that all ships laden with enemy's goods, and all goods, either of the king's subjects or of his allies, which should be found in enemies' ships, should be good prize.

And, by an order of council, dated in *October* 1692, it is commanded, that the above article of the ordinance of 1681, should be executed according to its tenor and form, without any distinction, modification, or restriction, unless authorized by the king's particular order.

By a regulation of *July* 1704, it was likewise ordered, that if any enemies' goods should be found in any neutral ship, the ship and all her cargo should be good prize.

This rigour was again softened by a regulation of *October* 1744, which directs that enemy's goods found on board of neutral ships should be good prize; but that the ships themselves should be released; and we shall presently see them carrying this mild principle still farther.

Northern confederacy.

Several northern nations, desirous of carrying on an unrestrained commerce with all belligerent powers, and of avoiding the inconvenience of having their vessels stopped and searched at sea, have, in many instances, introduced, by their particular treaties, a new principle, namely, that "*free ships make free goods.*" But this was nothing more than controuling, in particular cases, the general principles of the law of nations, by special compacts which were binding only upon those who were parties to them. But, as a general rule, *Great Britain* has always denied this new doctrine, and insisted on the ancient principle. During the *American* war, in which *Great Britain* stood alone against *France*, *Spain*, *Holland*, and her own revolted colonies, *Russia*, *Sweden*, *Denmark*, and other inferior states, formed a league mutually to support each

^a 1543, confirmé par celle de l'année 1584, et l'on trouvera que
^a ces réglemens sont bien conformes aux arrêts du code universel des
^a sociétés souveraines sur cette matière;—Let this extract suffice at once as a specimen of M. Hubner's candour and veracity, and as a proof of the view with which his treatise was composed.
 —(a) Tit. *Des prises*, art. 7.

other in repelling the right claimed by the *English*, and in supporting what the *French*, since their revolution, have called the *modern law of nations*.

The empress of *Russia*, who put herself at the head of this confederacy, caused a declaration, dated the 28th of *February* 1780, to be delivered to the minister of each of the belligerent powers, to this effect:—‘ That neutral ships ought to be at liberty to navigate freely from port to port, and upon the coasts of the nations at war; that the goods and effects of the subjects of the belligerent powers should be free, with the exception of contraband goods; that no goods should be considered as contraband, but such as were specified in the 10th and 11th articles of the treaty of commerce, between *Russia* and *Great Britain*, dated the 20th of *June* 1766; that to ascertain what should be deemed a blockaded port, it was determined, that none should be admitted to come within that description, but such, only, where, by reason of the near approach of the ships employed in the attack, there was an apparent danger that they would be able to enter it; and finally, that these principles should serve as a basis for all proceedings and judgments upon the legality of prizes.’

The empress ordered her fleets to arm in support of this new doctrine, and *Sweden* and *Denmark* followed her example. Thus was formed what was called the *armed neutrality* of the North. It was a blow aimed at once at the ancient maritime jurisprudence of *Europe*, and the naval superiority of *Great Britain*, which *France*, either foreseeing, or being privy to, anticipated by a declaration dated the 26th of *July* 1778, in which it was ordered,—‘ That no neutral ships should be stopped or brought into the ports of *France*, though they should be coming from, or going into, the ports of the enemy, except such as should be bringing succours to places blockaded, invested, or besieged; and that, as to neutral ships which should be laden with contraband goods destined for the enemy, they might be stopped and the goods seized and confiscated; but that the ships themselves, and the rest of their cargoes should be released, unless the contraband goods should amount to three-

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fourths

‘fourths in value of the cargo; in which case the ship
 ‘and the whole cargo should be confiscated; the king re-
 ‘serving to himself the power of revoking this liberty, if
 ‘the enemy within six months should not make a similar
 ‘concession.’

But though *Great Britain* never made any concession of a similar kind, yet the *French* did not revoke theirs, except with respect to the *Dutch*, whom they were then endeavouring to force into the war.

The success which unfortunately attended this armed neutrality, gave birth in the last war (a), to a similar attempt in the same quarter. But the vigour and ability by which the views of this new confederacy were frustrated, reflect equal honour on those who, at that time, directed the councils of this kingdom, and on the gallant persons who executed their orders. Their spirited exertions, happily for this country, not only vindicated the ancient system, but taught those who would subvert it, that the attempt can never again be made with impunity, so long as she retains her naval strength. Little, indeed, would that strength avail, should she ever be induced tamely to yield up this important point.

Should the least doubt remain in any impartial mind as to the admissibility of the principle which this country contends for, it must vanish upon the perusal of the following judgment delivered in our Court of Admiralty by a learned person, whose virtues and talents cannot fail to excite the veneration and applause of all *Europe*.

Judgment of the
 court of admiral-
 ty in the case
 of the ship
Maria.

That judgment was delivered in the case of the ship *Maria* (b), one of several *Swedish* vessels, sailing under the convoy of a *Swedish* frigate, which were condemned, after solemn argument, for resisting visitation and search.—The learned judge, after stating and commenting upon the facts of the case, proceeds thus:—“This being the actual state of the facts, it is proper for me to examine, to what considerations they are justly subject, according to the law of nations; for which purpose I shall state a few

(a) Viz. That concluded by the peace of *Amiens* in 1802.—

(b) 1 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 340.

principles of that system of law which I take to be incontrovertible,—1st. *That the right of visiting and searching merchant ships upon the high-seas, whatever be the ships, whatever be the cargoes, whatever be the destinations, is an incontestible right of the lawfully commissioned cruisers of a belligerent nation.* I say, be the ships, the cargoes, and the destinations what they may; because, till they are visited and searched, it does not appear what the ships, or the cargoes, or the destinations are; and it is for the purpose of ascertaining these points, that this right of visitation and search exists. This right is so clear in principle, that no man can deny it who admits the legality of maritime capture; because, if you are not at liberty to ascertain, by sufficient enquiry, whether there be property that can legally be captured, it is impossible to capture. Even those who contend for the inadmissible rule, that *free ships make free goods*, must admit the exercise of this right, at least for the purpose of ascertaining whether the ships be free ships or not. The right is equally clear in practice; for the practice is uniform and universal upon the subject. The many *European* treaties which refer to this right, refer to it as pre-existing, and merely regulate the exercise of it. All writers upon the law of nations unanimously acknowledge it, without the exception of *Hubner* himself, the great champion of neutral privileges. In short, no man in the least degree conversant with subjects of this kind has ever, that I know of, breathed a doubt upon it. The right must unquestionably be exercised with as little of personal harshness and of vexation in the mode as possible; but soften it as much as you can, it is still a right of force, though of lawful force,—something in the nature of civil process, where force is employed, but a lawful force, which cannot be lawfully resisted. For it is a wild conceit, that wherever force is used, it may be forcibly resisted: A lawful force cannot lawfully be resisted. The only case where it can be so, in matters of this nature, is in the state of war and conflict between two countries, where one party has a perfect right to attack by force, and the other has an equally perfect right to repel by force. But in the relative situation of two countries

The cruisers of every belligerent have a right to visit and search all ships on the high seas.

No neutral sovereign has a right to deprive a cruiser of this right.

countries at peace with each other, no such conflicting rights can possibly coexist.—2dly. *That the authority of the sovereign of the neutral country being interposed in any manner of mere force, cannot legally vary the rights of a lawfully commissioned belligerent cruiser:* I say legally, because what may be given, or be fit to be given, in the administration of this species of law, to considerations of comity, or of national policy, are views of the matter, which, sitting in this court, I have no right to entertain. All that I assert is, that *legally* it cannot be maintained, that if a *Swedish* commissioned cruiser, during the wars of his own country, has a right, by the law of nations, to visit and examine neutral ships, the king of *England*, being neutral to *Sweden*, is authorized by that law to obstruct the exercise of that right with respect to merchant ships of his country. I add this, that I cannot but think that if he be obstructed by force, it would very much resemble (with all due reverence be it spoken), an opposition of illegal violence to legal right. Two sovereigns may unquestionably agree, if they think fit, as in some late instances they have agreed (*a*), by special covenant, that the presence of one of their armed ships, along with their merchant-ships, shall be mutually understood to imply that nothing is to be found in that convoy of merchant-ships, inconsistent with amity or neutrality; and if they consent to accept this pledge, no third party has a right to quarrel with it, any more than with any other pledge which they may agree mutually to accept. But surely no sovereign can legally compel the acceptance of such a security by mere force. The only security known to the law of nations upon this subject, independent of all special covenant, is the right of personal visitation and search, to be exercised by those who have an interest in making it. I am not ignorant that, amongst the loose doctrines which modern fancy, under the various denominations of philosophy and philanthropy, and I know not what, have thrown upon the

(a) It is made an article of the Treaty between *America* and *Holland*, an. 1782, art. 10, *Martin's treaties*, vol. 2, p. 255.

world, it has been within these few years advanced, or rather insinuated, that it might possibly be well if such a security were accepted. Upon such unauthorized speculations, it is not necessary for me to descant: The law and practice of nations, (I include particularly the practice of *Sweden*, when it happens to be belligerent), give them no sort of countenance; and until the law and practice are new modelled in such a way as may surrender the known and ancient rights of *some* nations to the present convenience of *other* nations, (which nations may perhaps *remember to forget* them, when they happen to be themselves belligerent), no reverence is due to them; they are the elements of that system which, if it be consistent, has for its real purpose an entire abolition of capture in war;—that is, in other words, to change the nature of hostility, as it has existed among mankind, and to introduce a state of things not yet seen in the world, that of a military war and a commercial peace. If it were fit that such a state should be introduced, it is at least necessary that it should be introduced in an avowed and intelligible manner, and not in a way which, professing gravely to adhere to that system which has for centuries prevailed amongst civilized states, and urging at the same time a pretension utterly inconsistent with all known principles, delivers over the whole matter at once to eternal controversy and conflict, at the expence of the hazard of the harmony of states, and of the lives and safeties of innocent individuals.—3dly. *That the penalty for the violent contravention of this right is the confiscation of the property so withheld from visitation and search.* For the proof of this I need only refer to *Vattel*, one of the most correct, and certainly not the least indulgent of modern professors of public law. He expresses himself thus (a): ‘*On ne peut empêcher le transport des effets de contrebande, si l’on ne visite pas les vaisseaux neutres que l’on rencontre en mer. On est, donc en droit de les visiter. Quelques nations puissantes ont refusé en différens tems de se soumettre à cette visite;—aujourd’hui un vaisseau neutre, qui refuseroit de souffrir la visite, se feroit condamner par cela seul,*

The penalty of resistance to search is the confiscation of the property withheld from search.

(a) Vid. liv. 3, c. 7, sect. 214.

‘ comme

'comme étant de bonne prise.' Vattel is here to be considered, not as a lawyer merely delivering an opinion, but as a witness asserting the fact,—the fact that such is the existing practice of modern *Europe*. And to be sure the only marvel in the case is, that he should mention it as a law merely modern, when it is remembered that it is a principle, not only of the civil law, on which great part of the law of nations is founded, but of the private jurisprudence of most countries in *Europe*,—that a contumacious refusal to submit to fair inquiry infers all the penalties of convicted guilt. Conformably to this principle we find in the celebrated *French* ordinance of 1681, now in force (a), “*That every vessel shall be good prize in case of resistance and combat;*” and Valin, in his smaller commentary (b), says expressly, that although the expression is in the conjunctive, yet that the *resistance alone is sufficient* (c). He refers to the *Spanish* ordinance of 1718, evidently copied from it, in which it is expressed in the disjunctive,—“*in case of resistance or combat.*” And recent instances are at hand and within view, in which it appears that *Spain* continues to act upon this principle (d). The first time in which it occurs to my notice, on the inquiries I have been able to make in the institutes of our own country, respecting matters of this nature, excepting what occurs in the black book of the admiralty (e), is the order of council of 1664 (f), which directs, ‘That when
‘a ship, met withal by the royal navy or other ship com-
‘missionated, shall fight or make resistance, the said ship
‘and goods shall be adjudged lawful prize.’—A similar article occurs in the proclamation of 1672. I am aware that in those orders and proclamations are to be found some articles, not very consistent with the law of nations, as

(a) Art. 12.—(b) p. 81.—(c) In some of the treaties of *France* this article is expressly inserted in the disjunctive. Vid. Tr. between *France* and *Hamburg*, an. 1769.—(d) They acted upon this principle in the case of the ship *Tbetis*, which was the subject of the above case of *Salloucci v. Johnson*; the case, perhaps, to which the learned judge alluded.—(e) B. 7 & 8. (f) Art. 12, vid. *Thurlow's* state papers, vol. 1, p. 424.—

understood now, or indeed at that time ; for they are expressly censured by Lord *Clarendon* (a). But the article I refer to is not one of those he reprehends ; and it is observable that Sir *Robert Wiseman*, then the King's advocate general, who reported upon the articles in 1673, and expresses a disapprobation of some of them as harsh and novel, does not mark this article with any observation of censure. I am therefore warranted in saying, that it was the rule, and the undisputed rule, of the *British* admiralty. I will not say that that rule may not have been broken in upon in some instances by considerations of comity or of policy, by which it may be fit that the administration of this species of law should be tempered in the hands of those tribunals which have a right to entertain and apply them ; for no man can deny that a state may recede from its extreme rights, and that its supreme councils are authorized to determine in what cases it may be fit to do so, the particular captor having in no case any other right and title than what the state itself would possess under the same facts of capture. But I stand with confidence upon all fair principles of reason,—upon the distinct authority of *Vattel*, upon the institutes of other great maritime countries, as well as those of our own country, when I venture to lay it down, that, by the law of nations, as now understood, a deliberate and continued resistance to search, on the part of a neutral vessel to a lawful cruiser, is followed by the legal consequence of confiscation."

But to constitute a neutral character, and to bring a case within the operation of the law, it must be made appear that the vessel, at the time of resistance, had reasonable grounds, to be satisfied of the existence of a war ; otherwise there is no foundation for the several duties, which the law of nations imposes on neutrals (b).

But, in such case, the neutral is supposed to have had notice of the war.

Thus far of Warranties : We now proceed to treat of *Representations*, upon the faith of which the contract is generally founded, or qualified and regulated.

(a) Lord *Clarendon's* life, p. 242.

(b) Per Sir *William Scott*, in the case of the *St. Juan Baptista*, 5 *Rob. Adm. Rep.* 3.

CHAP. X.

Of Representations.

THIS subject may be considered under the following Heads :

- I. *What shall be a material Representation, and how and when it may be made ;*
- II. *When a Representation shall be deemed to be sufficiently true.*

SECT. I.

What shall be a material Representation, and how, and when it may be made.

A representation defined.

A REPRESENTATION, in insurance, is a collateral statement, either by writing, not inserted in the policy, or by parol, of such facts or circumstances relative to the proposed adventure, as are necessary to be communicated to the underwriters, to enable them to form a just estimate of the risk. These communications are, in general, the principal inducements to the contract, and furnish the best grounds upon which the premium can be calculated.

Different kinds.

A representation, like a warranty, may be either *affirmative*, as where the insured avers the existence of some fact or circumstance which may affect the risk ; or *promissory*, as where he engages for the performance of something executory.

When material.

A representation is said to be *material* when it communicates any fact or circumstance, the belief of which may be reasonably supposed to influence the judgment of the underwriters in undertaking the risk, or calculating the premium. And whatever may be the form of expression used by the insured or his agent, in making a representation, if it have the effect of imposing upon, or misleading the underwriter, it will be material, and fatal to the contract.

There

There is a material difference between a representation and a warranty. A warranty, being a condition upon which the contract is to take effect, is always a part of the written policy, and must appear on the face of it (a) : Whereas a representation is only a matter of collateral information or intelligence on the subject of the voyage insured, and makes no part of the policy.—A warranty, being in nature of a condition precedent, must be *strictly and literally* complied with ; but it is sufficient if a representation be true in *substance*.—Whether a warranty be material to the risk or not, the insured stakes his claim of indemnity upon the precise truth of it, if it be affirmative, or upon the exact performance of it, if executory ; but it is sufficient if a representation be made without fraud, and be not false in any *material* point ; or if it be *substantially*, though not *literally*, fulfilled. A false warranty avoids the policy, as being a breach of a condition upon which the contract is to take effect ; and the insurer is not liable for any loss though it do not happen in consequence of the breach of the warranty : A false representation is no breach of the contract, but if material, avoids the policy on the ground of *fraud*, or at least because the insurer has been misled by it.

Difference between a representation and a warranty.

It has already been shewn that a warranty must appear upon the face of the policy, and make a part of the written contract ; and therefore a written paper, wrapped up in the policy, or even wafered to it, is only a representation (b). For the same reason, the written instructions for effecting the policy, unless inserted in it, cannot be deemed a warranty, but only a representation (c) ; for the underwriter, by not insisting on having these instructions, inserted in the policy, shews that he is content to take them as a representation.

Written instructions, unless inserted in the policy, are only representations.

But it behoves all agents and brokers concerned in the effecting of policies, to keep correct entries of these instructions, and indeed of all representations made to the underwriters : For the whole question between the insured and the underwriters often turns upon these in-

Agents and brokers should keep entries of all such instructions, and of every representation.

(a) Vid. sup. ch. 9. § 2.—(b) Sup. ch. 9. § 2.—
(c) *R. Pawson v. Watson*, *Carr.* 785. inf. 458.

They are responsible for the consequences of any representation made without authority.

When to be made.

Dawson v. Atty,
7 East, 367.

A ship is represented as *American*, when the slip is presented for subscriptions, but not when the policy is effected;—This representation does not affect the contract; and the ship is not bound to be documented as an *American*.

Observation: on this case.

structions. Besides, they are answerable to the insured for the consequences of any representation made by them without authority (a), as well for those of omitting to make such representations as they have been instructed to make.

A representation may be made by the insured, his agent, or broker, at the time the policy is effected. But a representation only made when the slip is presented for subscriptions, but not renewed when the policy is subscribed, has been holden not to affect the contract.

As where goods were insured on board the *Herman*, without mentioning in the policy to what country she belonged. The broker, when he offered the slip for subscriptions, said she was an *American*, but did not, at the time the policy was subscribed, represent her as belonging to any particular country, though she was, in fact, an *American*.—The ship, being captured by the *Spaniards*, was condemned as prize, for want of being properly documented, according to treaty.—The underwriters contended that the ship being, in fact, *American*, ought to have been documented as such.—But the court held that, as the ship was not represented to be *American*, at the time the policy was effected, and there being no undertaking or warranty in the policy that she was *American*, there was no necessity for her being documented as such (b).

And yet the law has not fixed any precise time when a representation ought to be made. It is sufficient, if it be made at any time before the policy is subscribed; and it would seem that an underwriter, when he puts his name on the slip, does so upon the faith of the representation previously made to him, (no matter when;) and he afterwards subscribes the policy without conceiving that any repetition of the representation is at all necessary.—In the case of *Christie v. Secretan* (c), the policy was on goods on board the *Peggy*, on a voyage from *Maryland* and *Virginia* to *Bremen*; and the broker, at the time of effecting the insurance, spoke

(a) Per Lord Mansfield, in *Pawson v. Watson*, Cowp. 787.
—(b) Vid. sup. 385.—(c) Sup. 411.

of the ship as an *American*, but told the underwriters that he was directed not to warrant any thing : The court, nevertheless, held that it was necessary for this ship to be documented as an *American*.

A representation may be untrue, either wilfully and fraudulently ; or, inadvertently and innocently ; and in either case, if it be a material representation, it will avoid the policy.

A wilful misrepresentation or, *allegatio falsi*, in any fact or circumstance *material to the risk*, is a fraud that will always avoid the contract.—As if an agent, knowing that a ship had sailed from *Jamaica* for *London* on the 24th of *November*, tell the underwriters that she sailed in *December* : This is a fraud, and the policy is void (a).

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And such misrepresentation so completely vitiates the policy, that the insured cannot recover upon it, even for a loss arising from a cause unconnected with the fact or circumstance misrepresented. As if the insured represent that the ship or goods insured are neutral property, when in fact they are enemy's property ; he shall not recover even for a loss occasioned by shipwreck (b).

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So it would be if the insured, his broker, or agent, were to *assert* that a ship or goods were neutral property, without knowing whether this were true or false, and they are in fact enemy's property : For, though it may not, perhaps, be equally criminal *in foro conscientiae* for a man to aver that to be true which he knows nothing of, as to aver that to be true which he knows to be false ; still it is equally a fraud, and in the case of an insurance, equally injurious to the underwriter ; because he is induced by the deception, however occasioned, to compute the risk upon false principles. The same reasoning holds even in the case where the person himself making the assertion *believes* it to be true.

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(a) Per *Lee*, C. J. at N. P. in *Roberts v. Fomereau, Park*, 176. In *France* a fraud of this species is punishable criminally. *Valin* art. 41, h. t. This article of the ordinance directs that a person who is found to have insured after he knew of the loss, shall make restitution to the insurer, and pay double the premium.—(b) Per *Holt*, C. J. *Skin.* 327.

But if he only give it as his belief, without knowing the contrary, it will not affect the contract.

But if he only say that he *believes* the ship to be neutral property, knowing nothing on the subject, and having no reason to believe the contrary: There, though the ship be not neutral, it has been holden that the representation will not avoid the policy; because the underwriter may inform himself of the grounds of this belief, before he enters into the contract; and if he neglect to do so, he takes upon himself the risk of its being unfounded (a).

Neither does the word *expected* amount to a representation.

For the same reason, if the word *expected* be used, this will not amount to a representation:—As where a broker, in getting insurances effected on several ships, belonging to the same owner, and speaking of them all, said,—‘Which vessels are *expected* to leave the coast of *Africa* in *November* or *December*,’ when, in fact, they had all sailed in the *May* preceding:—This does not amount to a representation, being only an *expectation*, the ground of which the underwriter might have enquired into (b).

A misrepresentation made to the first underwriter is a misrepresentation to all.

By an extension of equitable relief in cases of fraud, it seems to be now settled that if a false representation be made to the first underwriter on the policy, in a material point, this shall be considered as a misrepresentation made to every underwriter, so as to infect the whole policy; otherwise it might be a contrivance to deceive many;

(a) This, in substance, is Lord Mansfield's doctrine in the case of *Parson v. Watson*, Cowp. 787. But with all the respect I entertain for so distinguished an authority, I cannot help thinking that there is, in this sort of declaration of *belief*, where the party knows nothing on the subject, a want of fairness which approaches very near to fraud; and it is to be hoped that very few instances of the sort occur in commercial transactions. No honest man would declare even his *belief* of a fact, when this declaration may have the effect of benefiting himself at the expence of others, without reasons for such belief, amounting almost to moral certainty. Nor is it quite clear that an underwriter is obliged to inform himself of the grounds of the insured's belief or expectation. It would seem rather that the latter is bound to shew upon what grounds his belief or expectation was founded. *Debet prestare rem ita esse ut affirmavit.*—

(b) Per. Cur. *Barber v. Fletcher*, Doug. 292. inf.

For

For when a respectable underwriter stands first on the policy, the rest subscribe without asking a question; if the first underwriter be imposed upon, the rest are entrapped by the same fraud (a).

Thus:—The ship *Franklyn*, on board of which goods were insured; was represented to be an *American* by the broker who effected the policy, to the first underwriter to whom it was offered for subscription. It appeared, however, upon the policy, that the defendant's name stood before that of the person to whom the representation was made; but that the names of the underwriters, in the order in which they had originally agreed to underwrite, (which was different from that in which their names appeared on the policy), were minuted at the time upon a separate slip of paper, on which the name of the person to whom the representation was made stood first.

Mansfield v. Reid,
13 East, 572.
sup. 341.

—The court intimated an opinion that if a material fact be represented to the first underwriter to induce him to subscribe the policy, it shall be taken to have been made to all the rest:—But Lord *Ellenborough* at the trial, and the court afterwards were of opinion, that the paper in question could not be received in evidence for this purpose, for want of a stamp; the effect of it being to shew that the contract entered into was different from that which appeared upon the face of the policy, in as much as the true contract was to be evidenced by the order in which the underwriters had engaged.

If a separate slip of paper be produced to shew who was the first underwriter, it cannot be received in evidence unless it be stamped.

But the insurer must avail himself of this sort of objection in the first instance; for after a verdict has been obtained, the court will not set it aside upon an affidavit of the first underwriter, that a material misrepresentation had been made to him. The defendant, in such case, knows what has been represented to himself, and might have known what had been represented to the first underwriter; and he shall not lie by and take the chance of a trial, in order to make the objection, if the verdict should be against him (b).

But this objection must be made at the trial, in the first instance; It will be too late afterwards.

(a) Per Lord *Mansfield*, in *Pawson v. Watson*, Cowp. 787. Vid. sup. ch. 2, § 2.—(b) *R. Barber v. Fletcher*, Doug. 292.

If the insured state his computation as *fact*, and it prove untrue, it will avoid the policy.

Macdowall v. Fraser, Doug. 247.

A ship insured on the 30th of January, from New York to Philadelphia, is represented to have been safe in the Delaware on the 11th of December, when in fact she was lost on the 9th.—

This being the result of the insured's computation, though not fraudulent, avoided the policy.

If the insured state his computation as *fact*, instead of the information on which he founds his computation, and it prove untrue, it is a misrepresentation; and if material, it will avoid the policy.

Thus:—An insurance was made in London, on the 30th of January, on a ship from New York to Philadelphia; and the broker then represented the ship to be, 'A tight vessel, had sailed with several armed ships, and 'was seen safe in the Delaware, on the 11th of December, 'by a ship which arrived at New York.'—In point of fact, the ship was lost on the 9th of December, by running against a *cheveux de frise* placed across that river. There was no imputation of actual fraud, on the one hand, nor any proof when the ship was seen in the Delaware, on the other.—There was a verdict for the defendant.—The plaintiff moved for a new trial, insisting, that the meaning of the representation was, that the ship had got through two-thirds of her voyage from New York, and beyond the reach of capture. To this it was answered, that the question of the materiality of the fact misrepresented was before the jury, who had determined that it was material.—The court held that the representation concerning the day being thus found to be material, and being also found untrue, the insured was not entitled to recover.—Lord Mansfield said,—“A representation must be fair and true, as to all that the insured knows; and if he represent facts without knowing the truth, he takes the risk upon himself. This case is very different from *Pawson v. Watson (a)*, where the ship was only fitting out when the insurance was made. It was then only said, what was meant to be done; and what *was done*, was more advantageous than what had been represented. Though there was no evidence of actual fraud in this case; yet the underwriter was deceived as to the fact, and entered into the contract under that deception. The insured ought not to have taken upon himself to compute the day of the month on which the ship had been seen in the Delaware. It was his duty to state exactly his

(a) Inf. 458.

information, and leave the underwriter to make the computation. In insurances on ships at a great distance, their being safe up to a certain day is always considered as a very important circumstance."

A misrepresentation, in a material point, equally vitiates the contract, whether it be the misrepresentation of the insured himself or of his agents, and whether it proceed from fraud, mistake, or negligence; for the insurer is thereby led into an error, and computes the risk upon false grounds.

Thus:—A policy on a cargo of oats was effected on the 21st of September, 'At and from *Hartland* to *Portsmouth*, lost or not lost, beginning the adventure from 'the loading at *Hartland*.'—The oats were shipped by *R. Thomas*, a cornfactor at *Hartland*, on the 16th of September, and the ship was lost the same day off *Hartland* pier. On that day *Thomas* wrote to the plaintiff's agent at *Portsmouth*, and informed him that he had *that morning* shipped the oats, and the ship sailed immediately, but he was afraid the wind was coming to the westward, and would force her back.—He also wrote, on the same day, to *Fisher*, the plaintiff's agent in *London*, to the same effect, in order that he might insure, adding these words, "I wish the whole safe to hand. This evening appears "stormy."—About six or seven o'clock the same evening *Thomas* heard that the ship *was on shore*, and at six o'clock the next morning (the 17th of September) he knew she *was lost*. The 16th was not a post day at *Hartland*, and the letters did not go from thence till noon on the 17th, and were received in *London* on the 20th.—*Fisher*, having been previously directed by the plaintiff to insure this cargo as soon as the bill should be sent him, he directed the insurance to be effected, which was done on the 21st.—Upon this case the court gave judgment for the defendant.—Lord *Mansfield* said;—"This policy was effected by misrepresentation, arising from the plaintiff's agent, who gave the intelligence. Now, whether this happened by fraud or negligence, it makes no difference; for in either case the policy is void. The underwriter was warranted on the information of the agent, to take for

A misrepresentation, whether by the insured or his agent, and whether fraudulent or innocent, avoids the contract.

Fitzherbert v. Mather, 1 T.R. 12.

A letter, ordering an insurance to be effected, was written by the agent of the insured before, and sent after, a loss was known: This is a misrepresentation, whether it arose from fraud or negligence.

for granted that the ship was safe at noon on the 17th; and this information was purposely given by *Thomas* to *Fisher*, that he might insure. And though the letter might have been written before *Thomas* heard that the ship was on shore, yet he knew she was absolutely lost before he sent it; and he had full opportunity to send an account of the loss. If *Thomas* was not guilty of fraud, at least he was guilty of great negligence; and either way, or even if *Thomas* was quite innocent, the policy was void." Mr. Justice *Buller* said;—"Though the plaintiff were innocent, yet, if he take his information from his agent, and his agent be guilty of a misrepresentation, the principal must suffer; for, where one of two innocent persons must suffer by the fraud or negligence of a third, the loss shall fall on him who gave him credit."

Sect. II.

When a Representation shall be deemed to be sufficiently true.

It is sufficient if a representation be true in substance.

A representation being only matter of collateral information, it is sufficient if it be true *in substance*, and its not being inserted in the policy in the form of a warranty, is looked upon as a proof that the insurer does not require it to be strictly and literally true.

Pawson v. Watson Cowp. 783.

A representation was "12 guns and 20 men;" and the ship sailed with 10 carriage guns, 6 swivels, 16 men, and 11 boys:—This being a greater force than 12 men, and 20 guns, the representation is true in substance.

Thus:—The first underwriter on a policy had this instruction shewn to him;—"3500 l. upon the ship *Julius Caesar* for *Halifax*, to touch at *Plymouth*, and any port in *America*. She mounts 12 guns and 20 men."—To the present defendant and the other underwriters, she was represented generally, as a ship of force. The instructions were dated the 28th of June 1776, and the ship sailed the 23d of July following. But at the time the policy was effected, there were neither men nor guns on board. The ship was captured; and, at the time she was taken, she had on board 10 carriage guns, 6 swivels, 16 men and 11 boys, which were more than equivalent

to 12 carriage guns and 20 men, in point of strength and convenience, and for the purpose of resistance; and it was proved, that in merchant ships, boys always go under the denomination of men.—It was objected, however, that guns meant *carriage* guns, not swivels; and that men meant *able seamen*, exclusive of boys.—But the court was of opinion, that had this representation of the ship's force been a *warranty*, the defence must have prevailed; because, though there were more than 20 men in the understanding of commercial men, yet there were not in fact 12 carriage guns: But this being a *representation* and not a warranty, and the ship having a greater force than if she had had 12 carriage guns, the representation was true in *substance*, and there was no fraud (a).

If a representation shew that a less voyage is intended than that which is described in the policy; yet, if there be no fraud, and the voyage actually performed be within the policy, though greater than that mentioned in the representation, it will be protected by the policy.

As where an insurance was made, 'At and from Port L'Orient to the Isles of France and Bourbon, to all or any ports or places whatsoever in the East Indies, China, Persia, or elsewhere beyond the Cape of Good Hope, from place to place; and during the ship's stay and trade, backwards and forwards, at all ports and places, and until her safe arrival back at her last port of discharge in France.'—In an action on this policy, it appeared on the trial, that when the policy was subscribed, there was a slip of paper wafered to it, and shewn to the underwriters, on which was written the following representation: 'The ship has had a complete repair, and is now a fine and good vessel, three decks, intends to sail in September or October next; is to go to Madeira, the Isles of France, Pondicherry, China,

If the voyage be represented as less than the voyage in the policy, but that performed be within it, it will be protected.

Bize v. Fletcher, at N. P. Doug. 271.

The voyage in a policy is described to be from L'Orient to the Isles of France and Bourbon, China, Persia, and during the ship's stay and trade, &c. A representation describes it to be to Madeira, the Isles of France, Pondicherry, China, and back by the Isles of France to L'Orient:—Though the voyage in the representation be less than that in the policy, yet, the voyage performed being within the policy, is protected by it.

(a) This seemed to be the opinion of Lord Mansfield and the court; though the principal ground of the judgment was, that almost all the underwriters considered the ship to be a ship without force, and the premium suited to such a risk.

the

‘the *Isles of France* and *L’Orient*.’—The ship sailed on the 6th of *December* 1776; arrived at *Pondicherry* the 23d of *July* 1777; continued there till the 23d of *August*; when, instead of proceeding to *China*, she sailed for *Bengal*, where she passed the winter; and, having there undergone considerable repairs, returned to *Pondicherry* early in 1778; from whence, having taken in her homeward cargo, she sailed for *L’Orient*; but was captured on that voyage in *October* in that year. It appeared that she spent much more time than is usual, in her voyages to and from *Bengal*, having touched and stayed at several places both in going and returning, and that the difference of insurance is one *per cent.* going to *Bengal* and not to *China*.—It was contended on the part of the defendant, that the representations restrained the voyage insured to the limits therein specified; and some letters were read, which, it was said, raised a presumption that the necessity of going to *Bengal* was merely a pretence devised after the capture.—Lord *Mansfield* told the jury in substance, “That the first question was, whether the policy was void on account of misrepresentation, which must be fraudulent, that is, *false* in a *material* instance, in respect to the risk *run*; that the representation meant to say; “I will have this understood as my present intention; “but I will have it in my power to vary it;” that fraud is found out by the materiality of the point it is charged in; and if they thought that this was a wilful misrepresentation to avoid paying the one *per cent.* the defendant would be entitled to a verdict: But if no fraud was intended, and the real intention, at the time of the representation, was to go to *China*, the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict; for the insured might change his intention and go to *Bengal*, that voyage being clearly protected by the policy, which being expressed in more comprehensive terms, gave a greater latitude than the representation.”—The jury accordingly found for the plaintiff (a).

(a) Some part of this summing up is taken from Mr. *Park*’s note of this case, which differs materially from *Douglas*.

Even if a representation as to the course of the voyage be literally untrue, yet if it be made in conformity to an established usage of trade, and no person be deceived by it, and the voyage meant to be performed be within the policy, it will not avoid the contract.

Thus :—An insurance was made on goods on board a *Swedish* ship. ‘At and from *London* and *Ramsgate* to *Nantz*, ‘with liberty to call at *Ostend*; being a general ship in ‘the port of *London* for *Nantz*.’—The ship’s clearances, and other papers from the custom-house in *London*, were made out for *Ostend* only, but the goods were shipped for *Nantz*; and the ship was intended to go directly to that place, without going to *Ostend*. Bills of lading in *French*, dated the 18th of *July* 1778, were signed by the captain in *London*, but purporting to be made at *Ostend*, expressing that the goods were shipped there, and were to be delivered at *Nantz*. The policy was subscribed on the 7th of *July*, and the goods were shipped between the 24th of *July* and the 17th of *August*. The proclamation for making reprisals on *French* ships was published on the 31st of *July*. Two underwriters signed the policy, after the proclamation, at the same premium given before. The captain, as soon as he sailed, destroyed the papers he had from the custom-house in *London*. The ship sailed on the 24th of *August*, and was taken by the *English*, and the goods condemned as *French* property.—In an action on the policy, one objection was, that the ship had been cleared out for *Ostend*, though she was never designed for that place, which was a fraud on the underwriters; that the fabrication of false and colourable papers, and the suppression of the true destination of the ship, were circumstances of fraud, tending to mislead the underwriters, as to the voyage intended to be insured, and the nature of the risk.—To meet this objection, it was proved to be the constant practice, well understood by all persons concerned in this branch of commerce, that all ships, going with goods of *British* manufacture to *France*, clear out for *Ostend*, though they do not mean to go thither; by which the light-house duties, which are payable when the voyage is known to be directly down the channel, are saved; and

If a representation be even untrue, it will not avoid the policy, if the insurer be not deceived by it.

Planché v. Fletcher, Doug. 238.

A ship insured from *London* to *Nantz*, with liberty to touch at *Ostend*, cleared out for *Ostend* only, but means to go direct to *Nantz*, with bills of lading, purporting to be made out at *Ostend*, as if the goods had been shipped there, in order to be able to import *English* goods into *Nantz* at *Ostend* duties, and also to save the light-house duties going down the *Channel*.—This being a constant practice, and known to all concerned in this trade, is no fraud on the underwriters.—Nor will the intention to evade the light-house duties render the contract illegal.—The policy being effected before, and the ship having sailed after, a war broke out, does not affect the contract.

and the *French* duties are less upon goods from *Ostend* than from *England*. A second objection was, that, as hostilities were declared, after the policy was signed, and before the ship sailed, the defendant ought to have had notice that, he might have exercised his discretion, whether he would chuse, for a peace premium, to run the risk of a capture; and it was the duty of the insured to give the underwriter information that the ship continued in the river after the proclamation. It was also contended that, in time of war, the exportation of enemy's property in neutral bottoms was illegal, and that an insurance on such goods was void.—The court were clearly of opinion that the plaintiff was entitled to recover.—Lord *Mansfield* said;—"This verdict is impeached upon two grounds; *First*, that there was a fraud on the underwriters in clearing out the ship for *Ostend*, when she was never intended to go thither. But I think there was no fraud on them, perhaps not on any body. What was practised in this case was proved to be the constant course of trade, and notoriously so to every body. The reason for clearing out for *Ostend*, and signing bills of lading, *as from thence*, did not fully appear. But it was guessed at. The farmers of the revenue in *France* connive at the importation of *English* goods, and take *Ostend* duties, rather than exact a tax which amounts to a prohibition. But at any rate this was no fraud in this country. With regard to the evasion of the light-house duties, the ship was not liable to confiscation on that account (a). The second objection is, that the policy was made

(a) Though the ship might not have been liable to *confiscation* for evading the light-house duties, yet, as one motive for clearing out for *Ostend* was to commit a fraud against the laws of this country, this seems to be within the reason of the cases in which the policy has been holden to be void, where the voyage has been undertaken for illegal purposes. Vid. ch. 3, § 1 & 2. & ch. 6.—According to the foreign writers, a deviation is excusable, if it be to avoid a toll established contrary to the law of nations: *Nauta excusatur si hoc faceret causâ conservandi jus*
sum;

made before, and the ship sailed after, the proclamation for reprisals. But a war was at that time expected by every man in both countries; the ambassadors of both were recalled; the fleets at sea, waiting for each other to fight; and the *Pallas* and *Licorne* taken from the enemy. It is indifferent whether the goods were *French* or *English*: The risk insured extends to all captures; and as the same premium was accepted after the proclamation, that was paid before, it appears that the war-risk was in view when the defendant signed.—Shall he avail himself of an event which increases the risk, but which he had in contemplation when he underwrote the policy?"

Every representation respecting the state of the ship, and the time of her sailing, is material; and therefore if it be stated that a ship was *ready to sail* on a certain day, when in fact she had sailed the day before, this is both a misrepresentation and a concealment, and will avoid the policy (a).

If it be stated that a ship was *ready to sail* on a certain day, when in fact she had sailed, this is a misrepresentation.

Thus much for representations. We will now proceed to consider the nature of concealment, and its effect upon the contract of insurance.

sum, quia veſtigal erit illicitum. Straccha de navib. p. 3, n. 8. But if the captain deviate to avoid a toll or duty lawfully authorized, this will discharge the insurers. *Si, pour éviter un péage légitime et autorisé, le capitaine s'écartoit de la voie ordinaire, il seroit en faute; par conséquent, les assureurs seroient déchargés des risques. Emerig. tom 2, p. 60.*

(a) Per Lord Mansfield in *Fillis v. Brutton*, at N. P. Park 182, inf.

CHAP. XL

Of Concealment.

HAVING, in the foregoing chapter, shewn the necessity of a full and fair disclosure of all the circumstances relating to the intended voyage which may, in any degree, influence the determination of the underwriters in undertaking the risk, or in estimating the premium; we now proceed to the subject of concealment, which may be considered under the following heads:

- I. *Of the Nature and Effect of Concealment;*
- II. *What shall be deemed a material Concealment;*
- III. *What things need not be disclosed.*

Sect. I.

Of the Nature and Effect of Concealment.

Concealment
avoids the con-
tract.

CONCEALMENT, or *suppressio veri*, is nearly allied to misrepresentation, or *allegatio falsi*, and consists in the suppression of any fact or circumstance material to the risk. *Dolus malus non tantum in eo est, qui fallendi causâ obscure loquitur; sed etiam qui infidiosè obscure dissimulat* (a). This, like every other fraud, avoids the contract *ab initio*, upon principles of natural justice. For, as the facts upon which the risk must be estimated generally lie within the knowledge of the insured, or of his agents, the underwriter must, in most cases, rely on him for all necessary information, to enable him to decide upon what terms he will take upon himself the proposed risk; and

(a) ff. l. 43. § 2. *de dolo malo*.

he computes the premium, and enters into the contract, in the confidence that the insured, being fully informed of all circumstances relating to the intended voyage, has dealt fairly with him, and has kept back nothing which it might be material for him to know.

But it is not merely on the ground of *fraud* that concealment avoids the contract: Even a concealment which is only the effect of accident, negligence, inadvertence, or mistake, will, if material, be equally fatal to the contract, as if it were intentional and fraudulent (*a*). Nor can the insured, by tendering any increase of premium, require the insurer to confirm the contract (*b*); for, in such case, the insurer has a right to say, that he would not have subscribed the policy *upon any terms*, if he had been informed of the circumstances which were withheld from him; because the risk that was concealed might have occasioned a thousand others. His intention was to undertake only for the risks that were communicated to him: But he was deceived; and that was sufficient to avoid the contract.

Though it be innocent.

It therefore behoves the insured, from motives of common prudence to inform himself of every fact and circumstance which may throw the smallest light on the nature and perils of the proposed adventure; and he is bound, by principles of moral honesty, to disclose to the insurer all such circumstances with the most unreserved candour and frankness.

The insured should therefore disclose all material circumstances.

But the obligation of a strict observance of good faith is equally binding on both parties in all contracts; and, in that of insurance, the *underwriter*, as well as the insured, is bound to disclose all circumstances, within his knowledge, in any degree affecting the risk. If, therefore, it appear that, at the time he underwrote the policy, he knew that the ship was arrived safe, the contract will be void as to him, and an action will lie against

A material concealment, by a underwriter, will avoid the policy as to him.

(*a*) Per Lord Mansfield, in *Carter v. Boehm*, 1 Bl. 594. 3 Bur. 1909, and in *Ratcliff v. Schoolbred*, inf. 468. — (*b*) Vid. *Emerig.* tom. 1. p. 20, 21, 68, 69.

him to recover back the premium (a).—The law of *France* very properly goes further, and to punish this fraudulent attempt, subjects the underwriter to repay the premium he has thus unjustly obtained, and the double thereof as a punishment for his offence, and a satisfaction to the insured for the risk he ran of being defrauded (b). /

When a concealment by an agent is fatal.

When an agent causes an insurance to be made on the effects of his principal, whether in pursuance of a particular order, or in virtue of his general authority, a material concealment by him will avoid the contract, though the principal had no knowledge of the fact concealed; but if the agent, acting *bonâ fide* under his general authority, and without any special order, cause an insurance to be effected for his principal, unknown to him, and the agent be ignorant of a loss which had happened, *Valin* and *Pothier*, founding their opinion on a decision of the parliament of *Aix* in 1744, hold that the policy is good, though, at the time it was effected, the principal knew of the loss (c). But if the principal, knowing of the loss, had given an order to get the insurance effected, the contract would have been void, though the agent knew nothing of the loss; *nam ille qui mandat, ipse facere videtur*.

Fraud is not to be presumed.

As fraud is never presumed, an underwriter who would impute fraud to the insured, must be prepared to prove it by evidence, according to the maxim, *Incumbit onus probandi ei qui dicit*.

(a) Per Lord *Mansfield* in *Carter v. Boehm*, 1 Bl. 594, 8 Bur. 1909.—(b) Vid. *Valin* h. t. art. 41. *Pothier* h. t. n. 47.—(c) *Valin* h. t. art. 41. *Pothier* h. t. n. 20.

SECT. II.

What shall be deemed a material Concealment.

EVERY fact and circumstance which can possibly influence the mind of any prudent and intelligent insurer, in determining whether he will underwrite the policy at all, or at what premium he will underwrite it, is material. Therefore, whatever the insured knows respecting the state of the ship, the nature of the employ in which she is to be engaged, the time of her sailing, the time of her expected arrival, &c. ought to be fully and explicitly disclosed; and the keeping back any fact of this sort will be fatal to the contract. In such case, the concealment so vitiates the policy that it will afford the insured no remedy, even for a loss arising from a cause unconnected with the fact or circumstance concealed; for a concealment is to be considered, not with reference to the *event*, but to its *effect* at the time of making the contract (a).

As, where an insurance was made on a ship from *Plymouth* to *Bristol*, and it appeared that the broker's instructions stated that the ship was ready to sail on the 24th of *December*, when, in fact, she had sailed on the 23d:—Lord *Mansfield* ruled that this was a material concealment and misrepresentation. He said;—"In all insurances it is essential to the contract, that the insured should represent the true state of the ship, to the best of his knowledge. On that information the underwriters engage. If he state that as a *fact*, which he does not *know* to be true, but only *believes* it, this is a misrepresentation. He is bound to tell the underwriters truth. The material point in this case, therefore, is, had the ship sailed, or was she in port?"—The jury, upon this direction found for the defendant.

Whatever respects the state of the ship, the time of sailing, &c. is material.

Fillis v. Bruton, at N. P. Park, 182.

The broker's instructions state that the ship was ready to sail on the 24th of *December*, when, in fact she had sailed on the 23d: This is a material concealment.

(a) Vid. *Seaman v. Fonnerneau*, 2 Str. 1183, inf. 472.

Ratcliffe v. Shoolbred, at N. P. MS.

The insured, knowing that his ship had sailed from the coast of *Africa* on a certain day, only states that she was on the coast, on that day: This is a material concealment.

So, where a ship insured, 'At and from the coast of *Africa* to her last discharging port in the *West Indies*,' sailed from the coast of *Africa*, on the 2d of *October*, and was captured on the 6th of *December*.—On the 22d of *February*, the owner received information that she was well, and had sailed from *Africa* on the 2d of *October*; and on the same evening wrote to a broker to get an insurance made on her, adding these words;—'As she is *rather long*, and we do not think it prudent to run so large risk at so critical a time.'—'We expect to hear of her soon.' Fearing, however, that if some intimation were not given of the information they had received, this might affect the policy, they ordered the broker to add to his instructions, "The above ship was "on the coast the 2d of *October*," but said nothing of her having sailed on that day.—On the trial it was objected, that there had been a material concealment of the true state of the ship.—Lord *Mansfield* told the jury,—"That the insured were bound to represent to the underwriters all the material circumstances relative to the ship and the voyage; that if he did not, though the omission were by accident or negligence, the underwriters were not liable, and *à fortiori*, if he suppressed or misrepresented any thing from *fraud*; that the plaintiffs in this case, having concealed a material part of the information they received, it was a fraud, and the insurers were not liable."—The jury, under this direction, found for the defendant.

A well-founded suspicion of a concealment, will amount to proof of fraud.

The following case, though upon a mere question of fact, will shew to what length the courts will go upon a well-grounded suspicion of fraudulent concealment.

Stewart v. Dunlop, in Dom. Proc. April 18th, 1785.

A friend of the owner of a ship hearing of her being lost, informs the owner's clerk of the misfortune;

One *Boog* at *Greenock*, a friend of the owner of the ship *Peggy*, and partner with him in some other adventures, was informed by a person just arrived at *Greenock*, that the *Peggy* was taken. *Boog* desired it might be concealed, and the same day had a conversation with the owner's clerk; but the clerk in his evidence deposed, that at no part of that day had he any conversation with, or information from *Boog*, relative to the *Peggy*, nor any hint from

from him or any other person relative to the making of any insurance upon her, further than *Boog's* asking him, 'if he knew whether there was any insurance made upon her.' Afterwards the clerk, by the desire of the owner, wrote to get an insurance effected, which he did without stating a word to his master of the conversation with *Boog*.— Upon this case, though it did not appear that the owner knew of the loss at the time he ordered his clerk to write, yet it was decreed by the Lords of Session in *Scotland*, and their decree was afterwards affirmed in the House of Lords, that the insurance would not have been made if the intelligence of the capture of the *Peggy* had not arrived at *Greenock* the preceding day; and that therefore the policy was void.

and he, the same day, by order of the owner, writes to have an insurance effected:— The concealment by the clerk avoided the policy, supposing the owner quite innocent.

The reason of this decision seems to be, that though no knowledge of the loss, at the time of making the insurance, was brought home to the owner himself, yet that, what passed between the clerk and *Boog* must have been deemed sufficient proof that the clerk knew of the loss at the time he wrote the letter; and his concealment of that was sufficient to avoid the policy.

So, where the plaintiff received, on the 24th of *November*, a letter from *Lisbon*, dated the 8th of the same month, that the ship *was ready to sail*, but did not make the insurance on the receipt of the letter, nor till the 2d of *December*, after the arrival of another ship which sailed at the same time with the ship insured, and did not then communicate the contents of the letter to the underwriters. Lord *Kenyon* held this to be a concealment which avoided the policy (a).

McAndrews v. Bell, 1 Esp. Rep. 373.

Concealment of a fact from which the time of the ship's sailing might be inferred, is material.

So where the shippers of goods at *Berderigge*, on the 30th of *November* 1802, wrote to the consignee in *London* in these words: 'I think the captain will sail to-morrow; but should he not be arrived in your port, you will be so kind as to make the insurance as low as you can, for my account.' The consignee received this letter on the 13th of *December*, and the next day effected the policy

Willis & others v. Glover, 1 New Rep. 14.

The owner, 30th Nov. 1802, writes to his consignee that the ship was expected to sail the next day on a voyage, usually performed in from five to ten days. This letter was not received till the 13th Dec.—Not

(a) Vid. *Webster v. Foster*, 1 Esp. Rep. 407, and *Charand v. Angerstein*, Peake, 43.

shewing it is a fatal concealment.

without communicating the letter to the underwriters. It appeared that it was not the custom for ships to sail on this voyage without a fair wind; and that it was often performed in four or five days, and, when the weather was not favourable, in about 10 days. The ship did not in fact sail till the 24th of *December*.—The court held this to be a material concealment; for the writer plainly supposed that the ship might arrive before the letter.

If, at the time the policy is effected, the insured have any reason to consider the ship as a *missing ship*, he ought to disclose it. With great deference I am inclined to doubt whether the following decision be strictly conformable to this rule.

Littledale v. Kenyon, 1 New Rep. 151.

Two ships sail from the place of departure, the one two days before, the other three days after, the time fixed for the sailing of the ship insured, and both arrive at the place of destination on the same day. The arrival of the first was communicated to the underwriters, but not that of the second.—Held not to be a material concealment.

A policy was effected at *Whitehaven* on the *Cumberland* from *Barbadoes* to *Liverpool*, pursuant to a letter of orders written by a broker at *Liverpool* on the 8th of *January*, in which he said,—‘The *Cumberland*, we expect, will have taken her departure from *Barbadoes* on the 26th of *November*. The *Barton* sailed on the 24th, and arrived at *Liverpool* on *Sunday* last (the 5th of *January*); but she is coppered, and a remarkably fleet vessel.’—It appeared that another vessel, the *Agreeable*, which left *Barbadoes* on the 29th of *November*, had also arrived at *Liverpool* on the 5th of *January*; but that she also was coppered, and a remarkably fast sailer; that an entry of the arrival of both these vessels on the 5th of *January* had been made in the broker’s book at *Liverpool*; that the *Cumberland* was not coppered, and was full built, and a slow sailer; and it was sworn by a witness for the plaintiff, that the *Cumberland* was not considered as a missing ship, and that a knowledge of the arrival of the *Agreeable* as well as the *Barton* could not vary the premium.—Upon this case it was left to the jury to determine whether the broker at *Liverpool* had fraudulently suppressed the arrival of one ship when he communicated the arrival of the other.—The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, and upon a motion for a new trial, the court held that the jury alone could decide whether the arrival of the *Agreeable* was a ground for considering the *Cumberland* as out of time or not.

Observations on this case.

Upon this case one would be inclined to ask, why was the policy effected at *Whitehaven*, and not at *Liverpool*; and

and why the broker communicated to the underwriters the arrival of the *Barton*, which sailed two days *before*, and not that of the *Agreeable*, which sailed three days *after*, the time fixed for the sailing of the *Cumberland*? Without satisfactory answers to these questions, it were impossible not to entertain some suspicion of fraud; and therefore the case seems to have called for reconsideration.

It is in some cases necessary to state to the underwriters the nature of the service in which the ship is to be employed; and if this be attended with any extraordinary danger, the concealment of it will avoid the policy.

If a ship is to be employed in a service of peculiar danger, this should be stated to the insurers.

Emerigon (a) reports the following decision to prove this proposition.—A ship was chartered by the commissaries of the *French* army, and the owner caused her to be insured, without mentioning the nature of the service she was to be employed in, which was very likely to be attended with extraordinary risk: In fact the commissaries were under the orders of the commanding officer, in the execution of which the ship was lost.—It was decreed in the Parliament of *Aix* that the insurers were not answerable.

It is adviseable for the broker or agent to disclose all he knows respecting the proposed adventure, and not presume to exercise his own judgment upon the materiality of any part of it; for if, in representing the state of the ship, and the last intelligence concerning her, he do not disclose the *whole*, and what he conceals shall appear to be *material*, the contract will be void, though the concealment was without any intention of fraud, and merely because *he thought* the matter concealed *immaterial* (b).

A material concealment is fatal, though the broker think it immaterial.

Even doubtful rumours respecting the safety of a ship which is meant to be insured "*lost or not lost*," how little credit soever the owner himself may give them, ought to be faithfully disclosed to every underwriter; and the withholding such information will avoid the contract.

Even doubtful rumours respecting the safety of the ship ought to be disclosed.

As where a man, having a doubtful account that a ship, like one belonging to himself, had been captured, caused

De Costa v. Scanderet, 2 P. W. 170.

(a) Tom. 1. p. 172.—(b) Per Cur. in *Shirley v. Wilkinson*, Doug. 306.

his ship to be insured, without giving any notice to the underwriters of what he had heard.—In this case it was determined that the insurance was void; for though the insured had no certain intelligence that his ship was taken; yet, if he had fairly disclosed what he had heard, it must be supposed that the underwriters would at least have insisted on a higher premium, if they would have insured at all.

Such, indeed, is the abhorrence in which the law holds fraud, that, though the misfortune which the intelligence concealed might have given reason to apprehend, never happened, still the contract will be void.

Seaman v. Frome, at N. P. 2 Str. 1183.

The owner having received uncertain intelligence of a ship being lost in a storm, gets her insured, without disclosing this information:—

The policy is void; and though the ship is well after the storm, yet the insurer shall not be answerable for a subsequent capture.

As where an insurance was made on the ship *Davy* on the 25th of *August*, and it appeared that the agent for the insured had received a letter from *Coxes* two days before, dated the 21st of *August*, wherein the writer informed him, ‘That he had been in company with the *Davy* on the 12th, and at midnight lost sight of her all at once; that she was leaky the day before, and the next day there was a hard gale.’—It appeared, however, that the ship continued on her voyage till the 19th, when she was taken.—Here, though there was no pretence of any knowledge of the actual loss at the time of the insurance, which was made in consequence of a letter, received the 25th of *August*, from the owner abroad, dated the 27th of *June*; yet it was holden by Lord C. J. *Lee*, that this was a concealment which avoided the policy, and that it was not material that the loss was not such as the letter imported; for a concealment is to be considered with reference to its effect *at the time of the contract*, and not to be judged of by subsequent events. He therefore thought this a strong case for the defendant, and the jury found accordingly.

The non-compliance with an ordinance, though it be contrary to the law of nations, ought to be disclosed.

In the case of *Mayne v. Walter*, which we have already noticed (a), it appears that by a *French* ordinance, all ships were declared liable to capture, whereof the supercargo should be the subject of a state at war with

rance; and it seems to have been the opinion of Lord Mansfield, that though this ordinance was contrary to the law of nations, yet that, if a neutral insured knew of such an ordinance, and had not complied with it, he was bound to disclose this circumstance to the underwriters, and the withholding it would have been a fatal concealment.

SECT. III.

What things need not be disclosed.

BUT either party may be innocently silent as to many matters which are open to both, and upon which they may both exercise their judgments. *Aliud est celare, aliud tacere: Neque enim id est celare quicquid reticeas; sed eum quod tu scias, id ignorare, emolumenti tui causâ, velis eos, quorum interfit, id scire (a).* This definition of concealment, restrained to the efficient motives and precise subject of any contract, will generally hold to make it void in favour of either party who is misled by his ignorance of the thing concealed.

Cicero's rule.

How understood.

The insured may be innocently silent as to what the underwriter knows as well as he, however he may have come by his knowledge: *Scientia utrinque par pares contrahentes facit.* The insured therefore needs not mention what the underwriter *ought* to know, what he takes upon himself the knowledge of, or what he waves being informed of. The underwriter needs not be told what lessens the risk agreed upon, and is understood to be comprised within the express terms of the policy. He needs not be told what is the result of political speculations, or general intelligence: For instance, he is bound to know every cause which may occasion natural perils; as the difficulty of the voyage; the variation of seasons; the probability of lightning, hurricanes, &c.: He is bound to know every cause which may occasion political perils; from the rupture of states, from war, and the various operations of war: He is bound to know the probability of safety from the continuance and return of peace, from

The insured need not disclose what the underwriter knows, or ought to know.

Nor what lessens the risk.

Nor general topics of speculation.

Nor what the insurer is presumed to know.

(a) Sic. de off. l. 3. c. 12, 13.

the imbecility of the enemy, the weakness of their councils, or their want of strength.

If an underwriter insure private ships of war from ports to ports, and from places to places, any where; he needs not be told the secret enterprizes upon which they are destined; because he knows that some expedition must be in view; and, from the nature of the case, he waves the information. If he insure for a certain term, he needs not be told any circumstance to shew that the risk may be over in less time: Or if he insure a voyage, with liberty of deviation, he needs not to be told what tends to shew that there will be no deviation.

Neither is it necessary to communicate to the underwriters that the ship insured is foreign built, though this enabled her to sail without convoy, and without a licence to do so, being within the exception of the stat. 38 G. III. c 76, § 6; it being the business of the underwriter to obtain this information for himself (a).

Not things which are equally open to both parties.

Men argue differently from natural phenomena and political appearances: They have different capacities, different degrees of knowledge, and different intelligence: But the means of information, and judging upon those subjects are open to both: Each professes to act from his own sagacity; and therefore neither needs to communicate to the other.

Those things only need be disclosed, which the one privately knows, and the other has no reason to suspect.

The reason of the rule which obliges the parties to a mutual disclosure of all material information, is to prevent fraud and promote good faith: But it is applicable to such facts only as vary the nature of the contract, which one party privately knows, and the other is ignorant of, and has no opportunity of knowing, nor any reason to suspect. The question, therefore, in cases of concealment, must always be, whether there was, under all the circumstances, at the time the policy was underwritten, a full and fair statement, or a concealment: Fraudulent, if designed; or, though not designed, varying materially the object of the policy, and changing the risk

(a) R. Long v. Bolton, 2 Bos. & Pul. 209.

understood to be run (a); and in both cases avoiding the contract.

It is a rule, that it is unnecessary to make any communication or disclosure of that which the insured undertakes for by a warranty express or implied; and therefore it is not necessary that there should be any representation as to the state or condition of the ship previously to the effecting of the policy; because, in every contract of insurance, there is an implied warranty that the ship is sea-worthy.

Thus:—An insurance was made on a ship and cargo from *Madeira* to *Charlestown*.—In an action on the policy for a loss by capture, it appeared that the captain had written two letters from *Madeira* to the owner, stating that the ship had been very leaky on her voyage thither, and that the pipes of wine had been half covered with water: But, in answer to this, it was proved that the leak had been completely stopped before the ship sailed from *Madeira*.—It was insisted, however, that the not disclosing the two letters was a material concealment which avoided the policy.—Lord *Mansfield* told the jury, that there was no necessity to communicate the letters to the underwriter, or to shew the condition of the ship or cargo at the end of the former voyage. “It is true,” said he, “that there should be a representation of every thing relating to the risk, which the underwriter has to run, except it be covered by a warranty. But it is a condition, or implied warranty, in every policy, that the ship is sea-worthy; and therefore there is no necessity for a representation of that (b). If she sail without being sea-worthy, the policy is void. The letters might be material evidence to shew that the ship was leaky in her outward voyage; and if nothing had been done to her at *Madeira*, there would have been ground to suppose that she was not sea-worthy when she sailed from thence. But it now appears that the leak was stopped, and that

There needs be no previous representation as to the state of the ship.

Shoolbred v. Nutt, at N. P. after Hil. 1782, MS.—S. C. *Park*, 229.

Letters from the captain, describing the bad state of the ship in her outward voyage, need not be shewn to the underwriters in a policy on a homeward one.

(a) Per Lord *Mansfield* in *Carter v. Boehm*, 1 Bl. 594. 3 Bur. 1909.—(b) Vid. sup. 154.

she was in good condition before she sailed from *Madeira*:"—Accordingly there was a verdict for the plaintiff.

There are different degrees of sea-worthiness, which, if known, may affect the rate of premium.

It cannot, however, be denied that there are different degrees of sea-worthiness, which it may be material for the insurer to know; and which, when known, may greatly influence his mind in estimating the risk and calculating the amount of the premium. One ship may fairly be thought capable of performing a given voyage, and may, to a common intent, be deemed sea-worthy with respect to that voyage. Another may be in a condition to encounter much greater stress of weather, and consequently to survive where the former must perish. No underwriter, therefore, knowing the difference between these two ships, would insure them at the same premium.—Yet, as there is, in every policy, an implied warranty that the ship is sea-worthy, it is unnecessary, in the first instance, to disclose any thing that forms an ingredient in sea-worthiness. If information be particularly called for, the insured is bound to disclose truly what he knows upon the subject; and, in such case, his withholding any material fact or circumstance would be fraudulent, and consequently fatal to the policy. But, provided the ship be in fact sea-worthy, it is unnecessary to communicate, unsought, a circumstance, which, if disclosed, would have had the effect of enhancing the premium.

Yet no ingredient in sea-worthiness needs be disclosed, unless it be called for, though a circumstance exists, which, if disclosed, would affect the premium.

Heywood & anr. v. Rodgers, 4 East, 390.

The captain of a ship, insured from *Trinidad* to *London*, writes to his owners, that she had been surveyed on account of her bad character; and sends the survey, which is satisfactory;—It is not necessary to disclose this letter and survey to the underwriters.

As where the ship *Eliza* was insured from *Trinidad* to *London*, and having sailed on her voyage, struck upon a reef of rocks off *Tobago*, and was so much damaged that she was obliged to put into *Martinique*, where she was found to be unfit to proceed without repair, which could not be had there. In an action on the policy, it appeared that the captain, after his arrival at *Trinidad*, wrote to the plaintiffs, informing them of his safe arrival from *Liverpool*; "that he had got his ship very clean and all caulked; that she was in very good order, but that he had had a survey on her, on account of her bad character, there being but little encouragement for freight;" that this letter was accompanied by the survey, which was perfectly satisfactory, all the surveyors agreeing, *that the ship was sufficient to take in her cargo and proceed to any port in Great Britain.*

Britain *with safety*; that on his arrival, he applied to a Mr. *Mitchell* for freight, which he declined, because the captain of an *African* ship had *offered to take a cargo at a lower freight*, and had informed him that the *Eliza* was a very old ship, and had a very bad character; in consequence of which the captain had the survey made in order to satisfy *Mitchell*.—It was contended on behalf of the defendant, that the policy was void by the concealment of the letter stating the survey at *Trinidad* on account of the ship's bad character; and it was proved that when a survey has been made in the *West Indies*, it was the constant practice to disclose that circumstance to the underwriters, whatever the result of such survey might have been; and that this never failed to enhance the premium; and that some would not underwrite on any terms, on account of the general inaccuracy of such surveys, the taking of which always indicated a doubt, at least, in the minds of those concerned, which made the ship always suspected.—The court, however, being of opinion that the insured were not bound to communicate to the underwriters the letter or the survey, determined that the plaintiffs were entitled to recover.

When an insurance is to be made on a homeward voyage, it seems to be sufficient to make a full and true representation of the state the ship was in at the time the last intelligence left her, without detailing all her previous proceedings; and especially if in the statement actually made to the underwriters there be a reference to prior communications which they neglect to enquire into.

Thus: A ship on an *African* voyage, the usual duration of which is several months, sometimes a twelvemonth or more, arrived on the coast in *August* 1799, and in *February* 1800 her then commander wrote a letter to his owners, mentioning ‘An attack on her at another place on the coast by the natives, who killed the captain and several of the crew, and wounded others; by means of which, and by a fever, the crew were reduced to five, and those all sickly, and not a man to be procured at hand; that they were plundered of their clothes, &c.

It seems sufficient to shew the true state of the ship when the last intelligence left her.

Freeland v. Glover, 7 East 457.

Two letters are received from the coast of *Africa*, the first giving a very bad account of the state of a ship, the second giving a more favourable account.—This being a true account at the time, and it was sent, in

sufficient to be
shewn, without
producing the
first.

‘ and their cabin stores were exhausted, and they knew
‘ not what to do.’ A second letter, dated the 21st of
April 1800, from *Gaboon* river, stated their arrival there,
on the 24th of *March*; ‘ that *the natives finding them*
‘ *weakly-handed, and their goods taken from them, did as*
‘ *they pleased*; that they had *then* nine men on board;
‘ but their provisions run very low; that he had men-
‘ tioned certain parts of the cargo in *his last letter*, and
‘ expected to ship the rest, and to sail by the end of the
‘ next month.’—An insurance was effected in *September*
on the production of the last letter only, ‘ at and from
the ship’s *first place of trade on the coast of Africa*,’ at a pre-
mium of twenty-five guineas *per cent.*—It was contended
on the part of the underwriters that the first letter, ex-
plaining all the causes of the distress, was material, and
the suppression of it was a fatal concealment; and the
more so as the risk was to commence six months before
the writing even of the first letter.—But the court held,
that the non-production of the first letter was not a fraudu-
lent concealment.—They said that, as the last letter had
made a true statement of the *then* condition and circum-
stances of the ship, which, though better than when the
first letter was written, were still deemed very unfavour-
able, as appears by the largeness of the premium; that
the second letter referred to a *former* one which the un-
derwriters might have called for, if they wished to know
the causes of the former difficulties.

The insured is
not bound to dis-
close a circum-
stance made
material by a fo-
reign ordinance,
of which he was
ignorant.

Mayne v. Walters
B. 22 G. III.
B. R. MS.—
S. C. Perk 195.

The following case will shew that the insured is not
bound to disclose a circumstance made material by a fo-
reign ordinance, which may be known by either party,
but which neither is bound to know, and which neither in
fact knows.

An insurance was made on a *Portuguese* ship, war-
ranted neutral, at and from *Madeira* to her port of dis-
charge in *Jamaica*, with liberty to touch at the *Leeward*
Islands.—The ship was captured by a *French* privateer,
and condemned in the court of admiralty in *France*, on
the ground of her having an *English* supercargo on board;
the *French* having lately made an ordinance to authorize
this, similar to one made in 1756.—In an action to re-
cover

cover for this loss, it was insisted for the defendant, that the plaintiff ought to have disclosed to him that the supercargo was *English*.—But it was determined by Lord *Mansfield* and the court, that if neither party knew of this arbitrary ordinance, which was against the law of nations, neither was guilty of any fault. If the defendant knew of it, he ought to have enquired what supercargo was on board. But, in this case, both being ignorant of it, both were innocent; and in such case, the underwriter must run all risks.

We will conclude the present chapter with the following singular case, which turned upon a question of concealment, and though not upon a marine policy, is very proper for insertion in this place.

An insurance was made for a year, from the 16th of *October* 1759, against the capture of *Fort Marlborough*, in the island of *Sumatra*, by an enemy; for the benefit of the governor *Geo. Carter*.—The governor's instructions for the insurance were dated the 22d of *September* 1759, and the policy was signed in *May* 1760. The fort was taken by Count *D'Eſſaigne* within the year, viz. in *April* 1760, and an action brought to recover the loss.—On the trial it was objected that there was fraud on the part of the insured, by the concealment of circumstances which ought to have been disclosed; particularly the weakness of the fort, and the probability of its being attacked by the *French*. This was offered to be proved by two letters; one from the governor to *R. Carter* his brother and agent; and the other to the *India* company, from which it appeared that the *French*, being unable to relieve their friends on the coast, were the more likely to make an attack on this settlement, which they had designed to take by surprize the year before; and that the broker who effected the policy, on his cross examination, said that *in his opinion*, these letters ought to have been produced or the contents disclosed; for if they had, the policy would not have been underwritten.—In reply to this, it was shewn, that the governor had 20,000l. in effects in the fort, and only insured 10,000 l.; that it did not appear that the *French* had any design to make the attack till the end of *March*, that the governor had

Carter v. Boehm,
3 *Bur* 1955,
1 *Bl.* 593.

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The governor of a fort abroad insures it against capture for a year: It is not necessary to disclose his speculations on the probability of an attack.

had acted as in full security down to *February*, and in that month turned his money into goods, and that, though his office was mercantile and not military, he was guilty of no fault in the defence of the place, which was not calculated to resist an *European* force, but only for defence against the natives.—The plaintiff had a verdict.—Upon a motion for a new trial, the court, after time taken to deliberate, were clearly of opinion that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, and that the verdict ought to stand.—Lord *Mansfield*, in delivering the opinion of the court, said;—“ The contingency was, whether *Fort Marlborough* would be attacked by an *European* power, by sea, between *October 1759* and *October 1760*. If it was, it must be taken, being incapable of resistance. The underwriter in *London*, in *May 1760*, could judge much better of the probability of this contingency, than governor *Carter* could at *Fort Marlborough* in *September 1759*. He knew the success of the operations of the war in *Europe*, what naval forces the *English* and *French* had sent to the *East Indies*, and whether the sea was open to any attempt from the *French*. He knew, or might have known, every thing which was known at *Fort Marlborough* in *September 1759*, of the general state of affairs in the *East Indies*, or of the particular condition of *Fort Marlborough*, by the ship which brought the orders for the insurance (a). Under these circumstances, he insures against the general contingency of the place being attacked by an *European* power. If there had been any design on foot, or enterprize begun, in *September 1759*, it would have varied the risk understood by the underwriter, on account of his not being told of a particular design then subsisting. But the governor had no

(a) There is nothing in the report of this case from whence it can be fairly inferred, that the underwriter knew, or might have known, all these things. The probability seems to be the other way; nor is it, I conceive, any excuse for a concealment, that the underwriter might, by exploring every source of information, have learned all that was necessary for him to know.

notice of such a design, nor was there, in fact, any such design. The attempt was made without premeditation, from the sudden opportunity of a favourable occasion, by the connivance of the *Dutch* which tempted *D'Estaigne* to break his parole. —As to the *first* concealment, that he did not disclose the condition of the place;—The underwriters knew that the insurance was for the governor, who must be acquainted with the state of the place, and who could not disclose it consistently with his duty (a); but, by insuring, he apprehended at least the probability of an attack. With this knowledge, and without asking a question, the defendant underwrote; and, by so doing, he took the knowledge of the state of the place upon himself; though it was a matter about which he might have been informed various ways: It was not a matter within the private knowledge of the governor only. But independently of that, it is enough if the fort was in the condition in which it ought to be, which was only to resist the natives; in like manner as that a ship insured is presumed to be sea-worthy. The contingency insured against was, whether the place would be attacked by an *European* force, and not whether it would be able to resist such an attack, if the ships could get up the river. It was found that this was the contingency in the contemplation of the parties.—The *second* concealment was, his not having disclosed that the *French*, not being able to relieve their friends on the coast, might make an attack on him. This was mere speculation dictated by fear, and not a fact in the case. It was a bold attempt for the conquered to attack the conqueror in his own dominion. The practicability of it depended on the *English* naval force in those seas, of which the underwriter could better judge at

(a) The argument here used is not quite consistent with a subsequent part of this judgment, where, to prove that no fraud was imputable to the governor, it is said,—‘ By the same conveyance which brought his orders to insure, he wrote to the company every thing which he knew or suspected; and desired nothing to be kept a secret which he wrote either to them or his brother.’

London, in May 1760, than the governor at Fort Marlborough, in September 1759 — The *third* concealment was that he did not disclose the design of the *French* to attack the place the year before. That design rested merely in report; but taking it in the strongest light, it is the report of a design the year before; but then dropped. — Another silence, not objected to, was, that it appeared by the governor's letter to his agent, that he was apprehensive of a *Dutch* war: That he had good grounds for this apprehension appeared from the subsequent conduct of the *Dutch*, to whom the loss of the place was owing. The reason why the counsel did not object to this concealment was, because it must have arisen from political speculation, and general intelligence; and it is not necessary to disclose such things to an underwriter. — With respect to the opinion of the broker, the jury were not bound to pay the least regard to it. It was mere opinion, after the event. If rightly formed, it could only be drawn from the same premises from which the court and jury were to determine the cause; and therefore improper and irrelevant in the mouth of a witness. — With respect to the governor, there was no ground to impute fraud to him. By the same conveyance which brought his orders to insure, he wrote to the company every thing he knew or suspected. He desired nothing to be kept secret which he wrote to them or to his brother (*a*). The reason of the rule against concealments is to prevent fraud and encourage good faith (*b*). If the defendant's objec-

(*a*) What he wrote to the company was not likely to be made public, and therefore not likely to come to the knowledge of the underwriter! What he wrote to his brother ought to have been disclosed: And though this concealment might not be imputable to the governor as a *fraud*, yet its effect in avoiding the policy would be the same. It is said that he desired nothing to be concealed: But a concealment without the desire, or even against the will, of the insured, will avoid a policy. Vid. sup. 465. — (*b*) We have his Lordship's authority, and the authority of plain reason, for saying, that a concealment may avoid a policy, and yet be quite innocent. Vid. sup. 465.

tions were to prevail, in the present instance, the rule would be turned into an instrument of fraud. The underwriter, knowing that the governor apprehended danger, and that he must have some ground for his apprehension, being told nothing of either, signed the policy, without asking a question. If the objection, "that he was not told" be sufficient to vacate it, he took the premium, *knowing* the policy to be void (*a*), in order to gain if the alternative turned one way, and make no satisfaction, if it turned out the other. There was not a word said to him of the affairs of *India*, or the state of the war there, or the condition of *Fort Marlborough*. If he thought that omission an objection at the time, he ought not to have signed the policy, with a secret reserve in his own mind to make it void (*b*): If he dispensed with the information, and did not think this silence an objection then, he cannot take it up now after the event (*c*)."

I have stated this celebrated case, and the arguments in support of the judgment, more at length than was consistent with the plan of this work; and I have taken the liberty to make some short remarks, in the form of notes on several passages, which appeared to me disputable. For with all the veneration and deference which I feel for the distinguished character and talents of the noble person who delivered that judgment, the duty of the task which I have imposed upon myself obliges me to declare, that I have not been

Observations.

(*a*) It is here assumed that the underwriter knew that the policy was void.—How could he know that it was void by reason of a concealment, without knowing what was concealed? Upon whom does the obligation lie; the insured to disclose what he knows, or the underwriter to fish it out by questioning the broker or agent? The argument goes to prove, that if the underwriter ask no questions, the insured is obliged to disclose nothing; which is true only with respect to matters of public notoriety ——(*b*) How could he judge of the omission, without knowing what was omitted? ——(*c*) How could he be supposed to dispense with information when the silence of the insured was, according to all practice, a proof that he had none to communicate?

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able to satisfy my own mind that it is warranted even by the principles which his lordship himself lays down as the basis of it (a). A stronger case of an insurance against the policy of the law could scarcely be put, than one in which the insured lays himself under the necessity either of revealing that which his duty as governor forbade him to disclose, or of concealing from the underwriters those things which it was material for them to know, and which justice would require him to communicate. It is said, however, “that the case so seldom happens, that little danger is to be apprehended from the example.”—That such an insurance is without example may be urged as one argument against its legality. But if a contract, which is contrary to principles of public convenience, be once sanctioned by high authority, no man can foresee to what extent the mischievous principle may afterwards be carried.—But then it is said, “that this objection could not, upon any ground of justice, be made by an underwriter, who knew the insured to be governor at the time he took the premium.”—This goes to prove that an underwriter who takes a premium upon an insurance which he knows to be illegal, cannot afterwards object to the illegality of it.—This, *as between the insurer and the insured*, would undoubtedly be just : But principles of public convenience demand that the justice of the case, as between the parties, shall sometimes yield to a higher consideration, namely, the probable operation of the precedent upon public morale, or the public interest (b).

(a) These principles which are, in general, abstract propositions of indisputable truth, and are laid down with admirable clearness and precision, will be found in the beginning of this chapter.—(b) Vid. sup. 56.





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